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## 20,000 Leagues Under



Have you ever wanted to live inside the retro-futuristic world of a Jules Verne novel? Do you prefer submarine portholes to skyline views? Then say hello to your dream home.

Opening the door of this Chelsea co-op feels like entering the retro-futuristic world of a Jules Verne novel. Surfaces teem with antique gears and pulleys, a zeppelin appears to float from the ceiling and the bedroom makes creative use of a deactivated bomb.

And about that door—weathered by the owner to appear salvaged from a submarine, it holds a working porthole.

"Delivery guys love the functional hatch," says owner Jeremy Noritz, a filmmaker. "I surprise them and grab my pizza."

Like many of the unusual fixtures and décor in his one-bedroom loft, Mr. Noritz says the door is "not just eye candy, but functional."

In the Chelsea apartment's kitchen, left, a zeppelin-shaped light fixture that constantly changes color hangs from the ceiling.

In the kitchen, antique wrenches double as drawer pulls and door handles, and display shelves hold antique fans instead of dishes. Mr. Noritz says he collected everything—from the large wooden gears weighing more than 500 pounds to the vintage recliners with built-in cup holders—from metal foundries and antique shops.



Photos of zeppelins inform the design, as does "steampunk" style, which is inspired by science fiction and fanciful interpretations of Victorian-era technology.

Those influences come to a head in the home's remarkable centerpiece: the huge color-changing zeppelin. The aviation theme continues in the living room, where metal sculptures, fans and still more dirigibles hang overhead.

The roughly 1,800-square-foot space has sepia-colored concrete floors inspired by the patina of Mr. Noritz's favorite Rodin sculpture. The two bathrooms are hidden behind walls of antique piping, gears and cogs, one of which is divided into two rooms accessed by a pulley.

In the bedroom, which is designed to look as though a zeppelin exploded there, a Murphy bed is operated by another complex contraption—a deactivated bomb attached to a skateboard that lifts and lowers to move the bed.

Mr. Noritz purchased the apartment, which also features a private terrace, in 2006 for \$1.3 million, according to property records. "It was in very good condition, but very conservative and compartmentalized," he said.

Transforming the plain-vanilla co-op into a Jules Verne wonderland took about two years. "Like other large projects, the initial budget and scope were quite modest compared to the beast it would eventually become," he said.

Mr. Noritz is selling the co-op, furnishings included, for \$1.75 million. CORE holds the listing.

"I imagine the buyer to be anyone with an appreciation for the arts," said Mr. Noritz. "Someone who likes to cook and entertain would feel right at home."