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Overall, the loft has two identities, depending on when one occupies the space. By day, the environment is halcyon ("almost Asian," says one client); by night, it takes on a sophisticated, seductive aura. "My work is not about imposing a point of view, but rather, about bringing together elements that can improve the lives of my clients. The owners possess attractive personalities, and this space reflects their magnetism. They are happy here," concludes James. The loft project, which began four years ago, is still a work-in-progress, as the ballet studio and guest bedroom are in the planning stages; completion is slated for next year.

—So-Chung Shinn

*Opposite and above: The bathroom floors are paved with stone to help James's clients feel "grounded" before touching water, an important procedure in Hindu philosophy.*

*Right: The custom-designed bed and side tables of the master bedroom demonstrate James's affinity for "furniture as architecture." Artwork is by Accra Shepp. Master bathroom shower features hand-painted tiles.*

LIGHTING: CONTINENTAL; LUCEPLAN. TILES: ANN SACKS; BARDELLI; HASTINGS TILE. PAVING: STONE SOURCE. FAUCETS: KROIN. GLASS SINK: VITRA. CUSTOM BED COVER AND RUG: JUDY ROSS DESIGNS.

