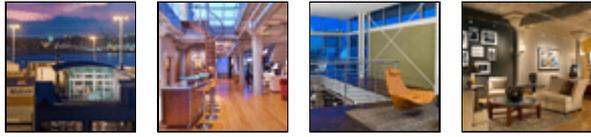


Oakland loft penthouse - \$2.2 million

Valerie Fahey, Special to The Chronicle

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Although Oakland has shed much of its blue-collar history, it seems only fitting that swanky lofts now fill the former Phoenix Ironworks, overlooking the Port of Oakland's giant cranes.

In its heyday during the 1960s, Phoenix poured more than 120,000 pounds of liquid metal a day. But now, since its conversion to live/work lofts in 2000, the building houses artists, entrepreneurs and white-collar workers.

This waterfront neighborhood, at the western edge of Jack London Square, is now studded with stylish new condominiums and factories converted to live/work lofts. Still, penthouse 405, atop the Phoenix Lofts, at 737 Second St., is one of a kind.

Offered for \$2.2 million, it boasts spectacular views of both the Port of Oakland and the bay. With two bedrooms and two baths in more than 5,300 square feet, it's the largest penthouse loft in the East Bay that belongs to a homeowners association, said Caldecott broker and listing agent Andy Read.

The entrance is through two sets of glass double doors. A keypad or intercom provides secure access to the first set of doors and a key or a buzzer is required for entrance to the second set. Stairs or an elevator will whisk you to the fourth floor, where 405's front door opens into a large rectangular space divided by paint colors on sections of the wall to indicate different room functions.

With 11 1/2-foot ceilings and oak flooring throughout, the space is as dramatic as it is large. To the right of the front door is a home office or space for the artist in residence. Next to it is a space defined by furniture used for entertaining guests. A family room overlooks the loft's only fixed item, a wood-burning fireplace. A guest bedroom with curtains that can be pulled around it to afford privacy fills the rear of the home. Its floor-to-ceiling windows overlook the estuary.

The master bedroom is behind the office and up a half flight of stairs. Overlooking Second Street, it is farthest away from the freight train tracks at the rear of the lofts. The master bath has limestone-tile with radiant heat floors, an oversize soaking tub and a separate shower stall as well as an Italian Catalano toilet and bidet.

The oak-floored walk-in closet has natural light from an interior window and plenty of built-in drawers and cubbies. The penthouse includes a media room, a 1,000-plus bottle wine cellar, two-plus parking spaces and deeded storage.

A custom-made spiral staircase with stainless steel handrails and balustrade leads to the top level, which features a wet bar, panoramic views of the bay and Oakland hills, and access to the 3,500-square-foot roof deck with olive trees, garden shed and hot tub overlooking the Port of Oakland.

The ample, well-organized kitchen blends into the living space. Among the loft's prior owners was Joan

Chamberlain, a former chef for Masa's in San Francisco and the Napa Valley's Auberge du Soleil whose passion for cooking is reflected in the kitchen.

Built around a large, granite center island, the design mimics a restaurant kitchen set up as cooking stations. One side, next to the ovens, is for desserts and baking; another side, with generous counter space, stove top and vegetable sink, is for prep; the third side houses the kitchen sink, dishwasher and cabinets for easy cleanup; and a fourth side offers raised bar and stools for chef-watching and entertaining.

Another nod to the restaurant industry is the commercial-grade refrigerator, which can handle anything from a Thanksgiving turkey to a flat of summer strawberries. There's even a wood-burning pizza oven.

Two walk-in pantries with swinging-style restaurant doors provide additional storage for bulk items on one side, and a washer/dryer on the other. The temperature-controlled cedar wine cellar has cork countertops and an imported Lalique crystal chandelier.

The second bedroom and bath sit behind the media room. This bathroom has dual sinks and a shower and functions as a powder room for guests as well as the bath for the present owner's two young children.

The Phoenix Lofts are within walking distance of Jack London Square, BART, Amtrak and the Transbay Ferry and are about a 15-minute drive from San Francisco.

Homeowner association dues of \$772 a month include management, fire and liability insurance, common area utilities, common area maintenance, exterior maintenance (including windows), garbage, sewer, elevator services, common area custodial and reserves.

737 second st. penthouse 405

Open house: Today, 2 to 4 p.m.

City: Oakland

Project: Phoenix Ironworks Lofts

Architect and Interior Design: Amy Eliot of Tom, Eliot, Fisch of San Francisco

Price: \$2.2 million

Square Footage: 5,316

Parking: Two-plus spaces

Bedrooms: 2

Bathrooms: 2

Monthly HOA fee: \$772

Sales office hours: Sundays 2 to 4 p.m. and by appointment

For more information: Caldecott Properties, (510) 594-2400

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<http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2008/04/27/REGK104489.DTL>

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