

artichoke

The project is a 4500 sf renovation and addition to an abandoned building in the historic Findlay Market area of Over-the-Rhine. Artichoke, a curated cookware retail space occupies the first floor, with two apartments above. The ground floor of the existing building was previously an awning shop, last used in the 1950's, with the only access to the upper floors provided by an exterior steel stair. As the existing interior stair for the upper floors bifurcated the footprint of the building into small spaces, an exterior stair and balcony were developed to provide access and egress, an open floor plan, and generous terraces for the apartments above. The new steel balcony structure also provides sun shading for the exposed Southern facade. The project was subject to a high degree of scrutiny by the Historic Review Board due to the modern detailing and the use of perforated steel cladding at the stairs and balcony. The project has achieved LEED gold certification.

The new storefront was designed using custom steel-plate box frames to negotiate the out-of-square construction of the existing storefront structure, providing a deep shadow-line between the new glazing and the existing cast iron columns. In the retail space, an aluminum and acrylic custom backlit display wall system is coupled with raw steel frames and wood salvaged from the third floor double height space to display the cookware. The sales counter area features edge-lit, laminated acrylic surfaces and salvaged wood. All retail fittings were designed and fabricated by the architect.

Both of the apartments are organized around the existing window openings on the South façade, where enclosed spaces are pulled away from the South walls to create an uninterrupted flow of space. Cherry plywood walls and sliding doors define the 2nd floor apartment, while two-story spatial volumes define the 3rd floor unit.

In 2017, Artichoke was selected to participate in the **Blink** art celebration in Cincinnati. International graffiti artist **D Face** was commissioned by the organization to paint a 3 story mural on the blank South wall.