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# case study

At least part of the reason why lofts have been so successful is the fact that they do not impose a conventional framework on the way people live. Today, when the boundaries between living and working are not clear cut, adaptable, transformable space keeps step with the fluidity of modern lifestyles. While what most people understand to be a 'true' loft is generally a single open area on one floor, the same flexible approach to spatial planning is beginning to infiltrate other types of residential development.

The conversion of warehouses and factories arranged over several floors into individual single-storey lofts inevitably

means that spatial quality will differ enormously between units located on the ground or middle floors and those at the top of the building, where natural light will almost certainly be better. One way round this problem is to convert buildings into several vertical units, rather than divide the space horizontally, so that each loft benefits from ground-floor ease of access and top-floor spatial quality.

This conversion of a former sweet (candy) factory on the southeast coast of Britain features seven four-storey live-work units, marrying the best of the loft and townhouse blueprints. Each unit provides 186 sq m (2,002 sq ft) of space, including 75 sq m

**RIGHT:** THE UPPER TWO LEVELS OF EACH UNIT HAVE THE SPATIAL QUALITY OF A LOFT, WITH A DOUBLE-HEIGHT LIVING SPACE AND OPEN-PLAN LIVING ARRANGEMENT. THE GLASS BALUSTRADING TO THE MEZZANINE PROVIDES MINIMAL INTERRUPTION OF LIGHT AND VIEWS, AS DOES THE OPEN STAIRCASE.

**BELOW:** A SERIES OF PORTHOLES INFILLED WITH GLASS PIERCING THE MEZZANINE LEVEL DAPPLE THE SPACE BENEATH WITH LIGHT. THE ROOF TERRACE, ACCESSED FROM THE MEZZANINE, HAS SEA VIEWS.

