

Halloween Director David Gordon Green's Kubrick-Inspired NYC Loft A space odyssey.



By Wendy Goodman, *Curbed* and *New York Magazine*'s design editor



The living-room wall: “We approached it like a floating plane,” Lembo says of the new fireplace wall. “It’s inspired by the monolith in Kubrick’s *2001: A Space Odyssey*.” The HAL 9000 eye on the TV screen does not control anything in the apartment, however. Photo: Eric van den Brulle

“I have always been drawn to that weird place where nature and industry meet,” says filmmaker David Gordon Green, describing his childhood growing up in Arkansas and East Texas, where he spent time exploring “rusted-out old buildings where a tree was growing through the floor and vines were covering the dilapidated brick.” His Hollywood success as director of *The Sitter*, *Pineapple Express*, *Joe*, and the 2019 remake of *Halloween*, among other TV and film projects, didn’t inspire him to live in Los Angeles; instead, he based himself in Charleston, South Carolina. But he had long wanted the perfect New York City place, and when he found this 1,250-square-foot loft that hadn’t been touched in 35 years, he had a “tornado of ideas” for how to remake it. He signed on with designer Joseph Lembo, who had experience with the building and shares a love of film, to collaborate with him.

“It was literally like a month after *Halloween* was released,” says Green, who has two more sequels coming out of that franchise as well as a TV series based on *Hellraiser*. “And my first agenda was to settle into this place and find the right way to do it.”

“So we had a connection,” Lembo says about their love for film and his experience working with director Michael Cimino on his 1985 film *Year of the Dragon*, “and somehow Stanley Kubrick came into our conversation. We are both fanatics about Stanley’s work.” The gut renovation entailed creating a larger kitchen, two bedrooms, and an open living room. Lembo proposed taking out all the Sheetrock and using steel and glass — specifically dichroic glass, which has micro-layers of metals or oxides so its color shifts depending on the angle of view. It can feel a bit like being on a spaceship.

“I was always saying, ‘Let’s go too far and then let’s see what’s realistic,’” Green says about diving into the design process. The dichroic glass in the bedroom walls can appear to be pink, orange, or bright green at various times of the day. “The apartment itself has the temperament based on the sun, so I never know what color the atmosphere is going to be. It’s like a mood ring in the apartment. When I was trying to comprehend when Joseph first pitched me the idea, I said, ‘You mean like on an escalator mall in the ’80s,’” he says, laughing. “And Joseph said, ‘Exactly.’”

“It’s just awesome to have a retreat,” Green says of his loft, “where I can come and write and listen to music and read and cook and rest. It’s so weird to come to the big city to recharge, but that’s what I do.”



The view of the living room toward the kitchen, with a 20-foot custom sofa from Victor & Vicky Interiors upholstered in Maharam fabric. The print on the left above the sofa is by Donald Sultan, and the painting on the right is by Kent Williams. Green's art collection also includes pieces by photographer Shelby Lee Adams, and he has commissioned a work by Anis Mojgani. The coffee table and swivel club chair are from Barbarella Home. The rug is Nasiri, chair BDDW. Photo: Eric van den Brulle



The main bedroom is a medley of greens with a bed from Restoration Hardware and side tables from Design Within Reach. The accent pillow is covered in vintage African textiles from Paula Rubenstein. The sconces are from Artemide, and mirror from cityFoundry. Photo: Eric van den Brulle



The kitchen cupboards are from Plain English with a custom cutting board by DBO Home, found at Field+Supply. The hanging lights are from RW Guild. Photo: Eric van den Brulle



The main bath: “I thought it would be great to do an olive-drab and khaki bathroom,” Lembo says of the Waterworks tile and Roman and Williams for Waterworks fixtures and lighting. “David absolutely didn’t want chrome or nickel fixtures,” Lembo says, “so we used unlacquered brass, which requires maintenance but the patina is gorgeous.” Photo: Eric van den Brulle



Green's dresser opens to reveal a blushing-pink interior. He likes that Lembo added this unexpected hue. Photo: Eric van den Brulle



The second bedroom: The dichroic glass from Bendheim Glass in the bedroom walls can emit shocks of pink, orange, or bright green at various times of day. The stool is from Paula Rubenstein, the curtain fabric designed by Eames for Maharam, and the rug from Burkleman. Lembo's team included Karen Foley, Laurence Waltman, and Cortlandt Contracting; J5 Group, Inc was the engineering firm. Photo: Eric van den Brulle



The bar. The hand painted wallpaper is from Sarkos, and the horsehair tassel by Alexandra Kohl, found at Field+Supply. Photo: Eric van den Brulle