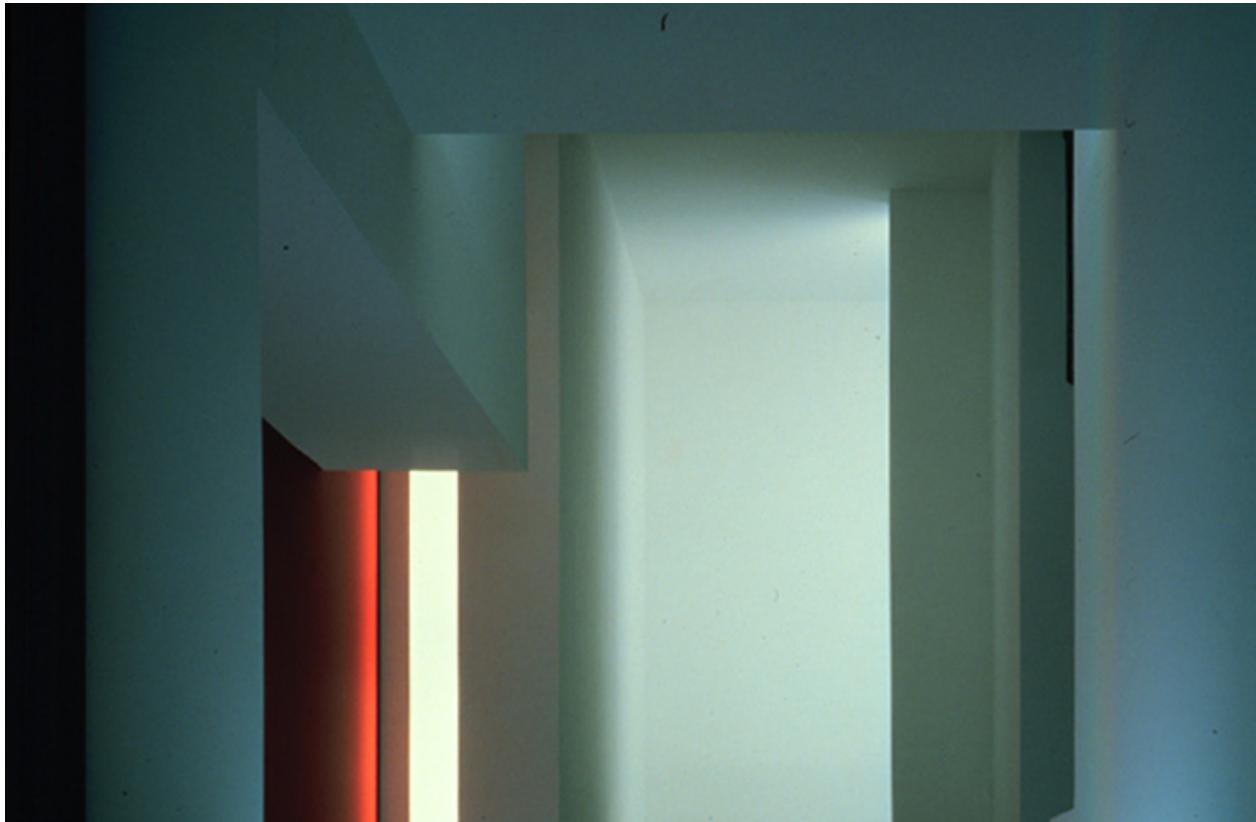


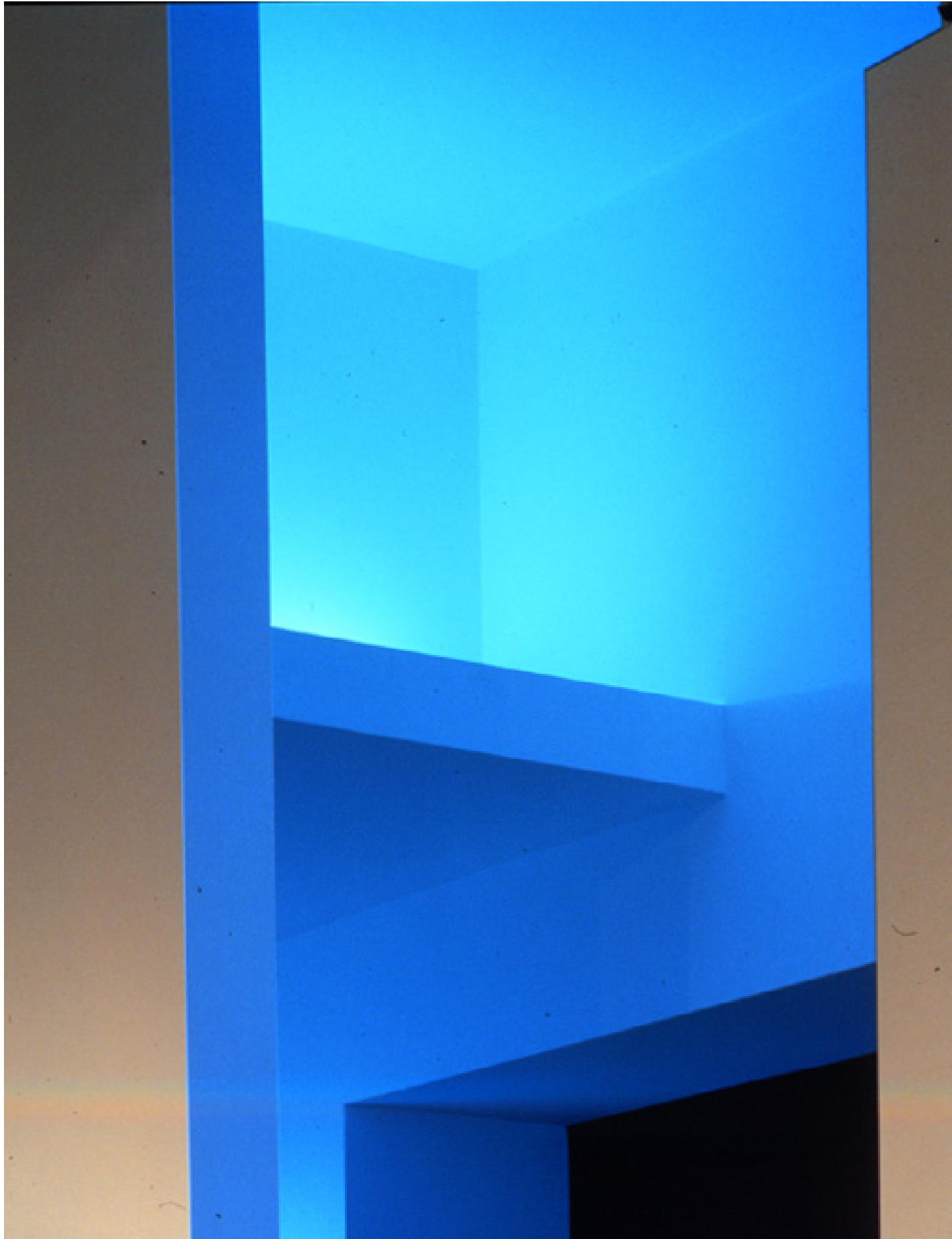
Studio for a Photographer

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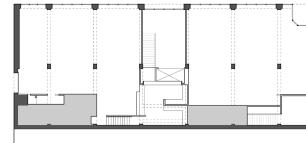
The renovation of 9 W. 19th Street was an exercise in inserting a new function into an old building. The building, located in Kansas City's Crossroads Arts District, was built around 1940. The owner, a commercial photographer, commissioned an extensive renovation of the property and retained half of the ground floor for his studio.

Our approach to renovation centered upon a process of clarifying the existing physical and spatial character of the building. As the building was stripped of non-essential debris, a comically oversized structural frame became apparent. This frame was exposed and became a prominent feature in the renovation, along with a continuous storefront on the north and east walls. The construction of a backdrop of cleanly detailed partitions and built-in casework was utilized to compliment the exposed concrete columns and beams. Programmatic spaces are tucked away from the openness of the studio.

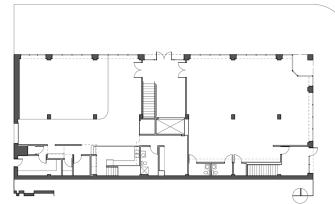




Second floor plan



Ground floor plan



In photography, light is a critical issue. The word photography literally means “writing with light.” Light became a tool to reveal the space of the photographer’s studio. The north facing storefront allows daylight to penetrate the space, rendering it in pale blues, and exposes the space and its inhabitants to the mood of the day and the season. A row of incandescent spotlights spreads warm yellow light across the back wall, accenting the form while complimenting the cooler daylight. Finally, simple fluorescent strips, some with colored gel sleeves, are positioned within the backdrop system of walls to ensure the visibility and readability of its planes.

The physical materials of the building give shape, dimension, color and texture to the space. Light, in this case, is understood as a material to reveal the physical and poetic dimensions of the photographer’s studio. Throughout the day, light illuminates the space in ever-changing patterns. It is through this illumination that we are allowed to inhabit the space.

*Lighting consultant is Derek Porter.
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