

PENINSULA

AND THE BAY AREA

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Capturing the spirit of S.F.

Two designs have what it takes to enhance the neighborhoods

By John King
CHRONICLE URBAN
DESIGN WRITER

Logically, there's no connection between Craig Awbrey's small condominium tower on Nob Hill and the artist complex in the Mission developed by Jillien Doroan and Daniel Nourse.

One has limestone floors in the elevator, the other has corridors of construction-grade plywood. One sits across from a closed auto shop. The other is two doors away from the Ritz-Carlton.

But the projects share a common trait: Each is shaped by the creator's attempt to live up to some mental picture of what San Francisco represents. And that's a rare approach in this era when too many Bay Area buildings are dulled by greed and the bottom line.

"We wanted to keep the idea that this is a city where creative people can work and live within a shared community," says Doroan, a photographer who ruefully admits that she's barely touched a camera the past two years. "It's about five

times the size of the project that we wanted to do, but we fell in love with the building."

The building in question is a former box factory on Folsom Street in the Mission's northeast corner. The largest cluster of buildings on a block of industrial hodgepodge, it now contains 15 live-work units, eight work studios and six commercial spaces.

From the outside, this complex looks pretty much the same as before the Allied Box Factory moved out in 1997. There's a four-story barnlike structure with wood shingles that dates back to 1907, flanked by two smaller structures, also wood, painted the same warm tone of forest green.

The center building still has "Allied Box Factory" emblazoned across it. But inside, the buildings contain studios, and there's a landscaped courtyard where a tin roof once covered a storage area.

The intention was to create "a campus within the city," according to Doroan, whose business

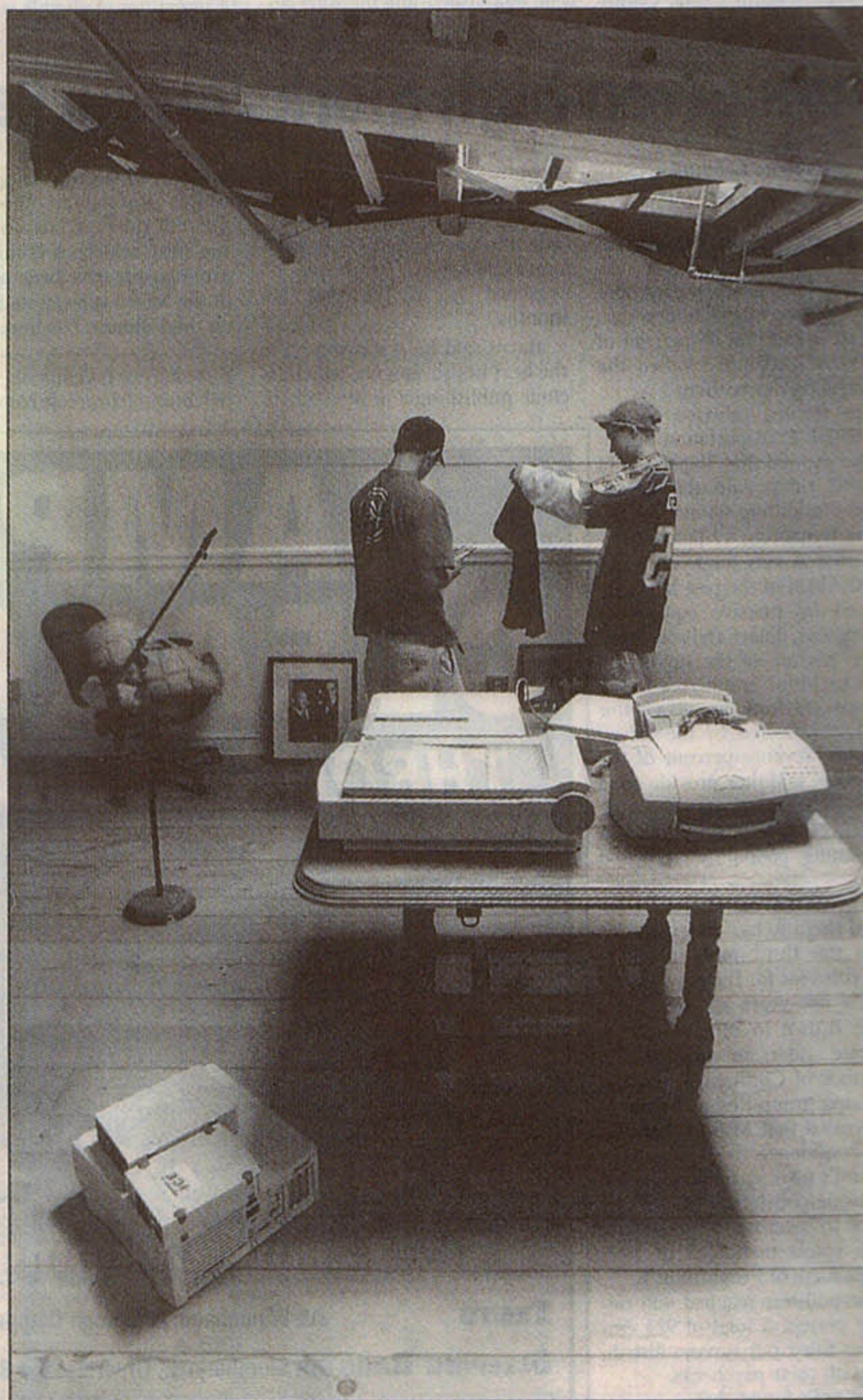


The courtyard replaces a tin roof that once covered a factory storage area.



The Baymark on Nob Hill features Corinthian columns and ornate molding.

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Gabe Crane (left) and Rafael Casal helped unpack at the new offices of Youth Speaks in the former Allied Box Factory on Folsom Street between 17th and 18th streets.

Photos by MICHAEL MACOR / The Chronicle