

LOFTY AMBITION

THIS Clerkenwell flat featured in the 1999 book *Lofts* by architectural critics Marcus Field and Mark Irving, which explores the trend of how buildings constructed for industrial use were transformed into domestic living spaces from the 1990s.

The firm at the vanguard of the movement was the Manhattan Loft Corporation, led by developer Harry Handelsman. He is the man generally credited with introducing the concept of 'loft living' to the UK.

Handelsman set up the Manhattan Loft Corporation with his partner John Hitchcox in 1992 after spotting

a commercial building in Clerkenwell that he believed he could transform into modern living spaces.

German-born Handelsman began his career as a developer in the US and Canada, but the focus of his work has been on London where he has more recently been behind the St Pancras Hotel and, perhaps the most in vogue nightspot in the capital, The Chiltern Firehouse.

His most current project is the Manhattan Loft Gardens a 42-storey tower in Stratford, east London, which is due to be completed in 2018.

Aiming high:
Manhattan Loft Gardens



Celeb hotspot: The Chiltern Firehouse

