

## LoftLife Goes to the Movies

5/16/08 As a compulsive moviegoing, dvd-obsessed, want-to-be film buff, I have come to the following conclusion: In almost every film, even the realistic, gritty types, there is at least one character with amazing digs. And more often than not, this character is the starving artist, or the wayward 20-something who calls a converted mattress factory (complete with a spiral staircase) home.

Watching movies about people who live in awesome spaces that are thousands of square feet in size can be painful: how could those people, or anyone for that matter, ever, ever afford that space? How could that space even exist?!



The answer, of course, is only in Hollywood. It's a movie! Chances are the fruit in the bowl on the coffee table is plastic. When you remember that it's just a movie, you can suspend your disbelief and be inspired by these amazing Hollywood set-ups.

One more thing. Besides the relentless, socioeconomic mismatching, another theme has become quite apparent: it's usually the "bad guy" who lives in the loft. This includes psychopaths, thieves, serial killers, megalomaniacs, lunatics, eccentric loners, and any other mischievous character. They always seem to be the ones who live in these industrial, gigantic, converted loft spaces.

So, without further ado, here are 8 films that feature incredible lofts, most of which are occupied by crazy people.

### 1. [\*Hannah and Her Sisters\*](#)

Directed by Woody Allen

Frederick, played by the great Max von Sydow, is an aging, bitter recluse who shares a fabulous loft with his much younger girlfriend/pupil Lee, played by Barbara Hershey. This space is a classic Soho loft: one huge room, broken up only by a few pillars, and filled with rows of industrial shelves housing books and records. Frederick's easels and canvases are scattered throughout the place to complete the glamorously dysfunctional look.



## 2. *Contempt*

Directed by Jean-Luc Godard

In 1963, French director Godard made his debut into commercial film with this melodrama about a relationship in jeopardy. The film features a thoroughly retro, colorful loft, providing the perfect setting (and space!) for the couple to duke it out.





### 3. *The Big Lebowski*

Directed by the Coen Brothers

Remember Julianne Moore's amazing performance as the over-the-top, harness-wearing artist, Maude Lebowski? Well, she lived in an amazing loft, complete with giant feminist-themed photographs and chic leather-and-chrome furniture.



### 4. *Unfaithful*

Directed by Adrian Lyne

In this white-knuckle movie, it's the book-filled, eclectic loft of the sexy antagonist where people get into trouble. While the famous sex scenes between Diane Lane and Olivier Martinez distract from the setting, if you concentrate hard, you'll notice how incredible and full of objects d'art this enormous space actually is. The fact that he can afford it as a book-seller is just as amusing.



5. [New York Stories](#)

Directed by Woody Allen, Martin Scorsese, Francis Ford Coppola

There's no reason to see this horrible compilation of 3 films by Scorsese, Coppola, and Woody Allen except to covet the protagonist's loft in Scorses' section "Life With Zoe." Nina Ramsey and Kristi Zea, the set designers, chose a 10,000-square-foot empty loft near Astor Place. What they did with it is a sight to be seen.





#### 6. *Blade Runner*

Directed by Ridley Scott

Ridley Scott's infamous use of Frank Lloyd Wright's "Ennis-Brown" house is reason enough to include this movie in the list. Set in the future, the strange, dimly lit, geometric aesthetic of Deckard's (Harrison Ford) loft-like space has stood the test of time.



#### 7. *Bottle Rocket*

Directed by Wes Anderson

Anderson is famous for his neurotic attention to detail, especially when it comes to the aesthetics of his sets. It's really in his first and lesser known film, however, that he features a classic loft appropriate for this list. The occupant, Mr. Henry, is a crook with a penchant for throwing big, elaborate parties in his warehouse loft. I especially enjoy his ping-pong table.



#### 8. [\*American Psycho\*](#)

Directed by Mary Harron

This high-camp, cult classic had to be included: Christian Bale plays a serial killer who loves to murder and eat prostitutes in his flawless, all white loft - complete with Barcelona chairs and a state-of-the-art stainless steel kitchen, containing a gleaming fridge perfect for storing severed heads.



Posted by Cate West Zahl

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