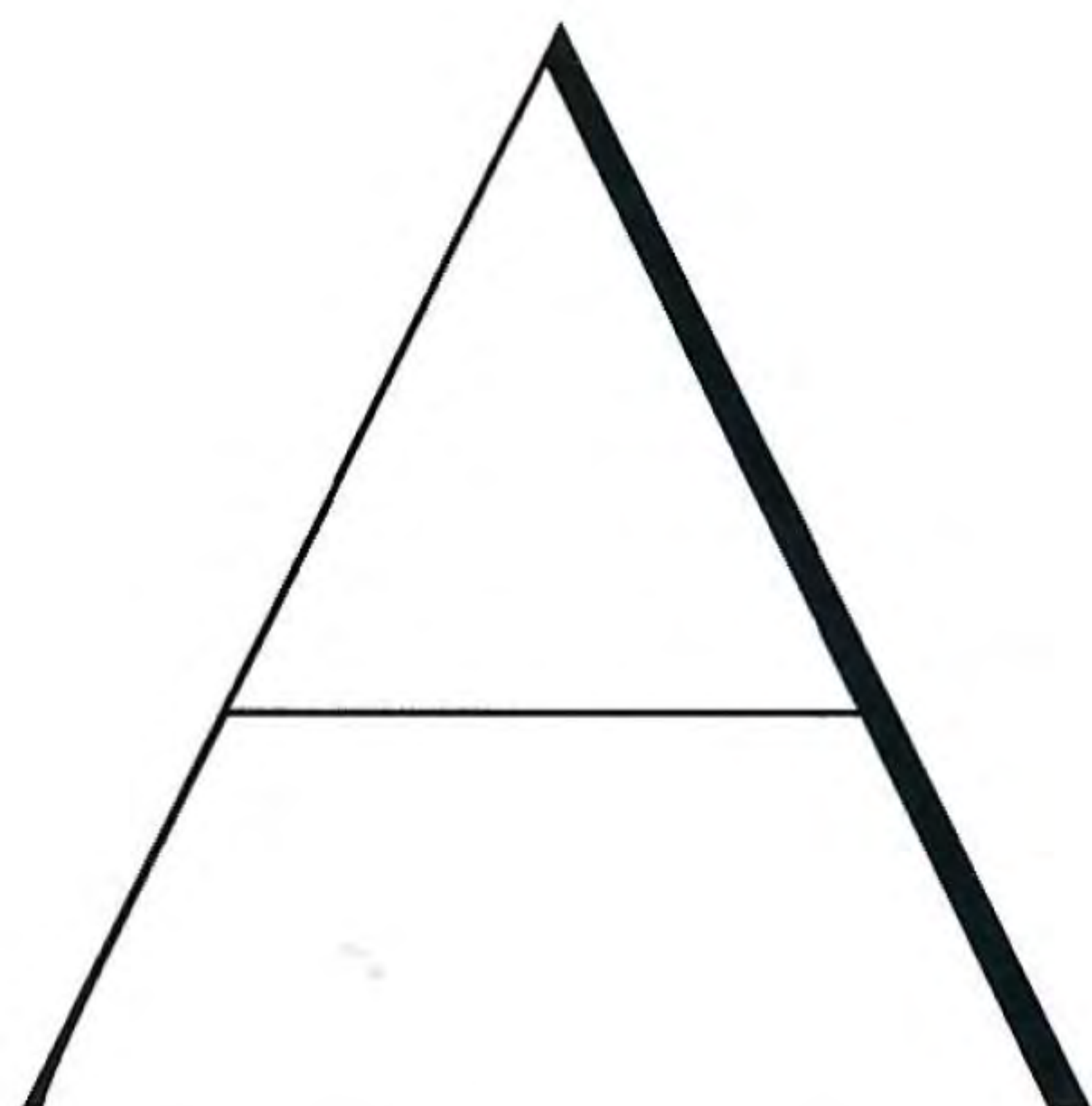


SITTING AREA

"I had never seen a mantel this big," Victoria says of the antique piece salvaged from Architectural Accents. "It will come with me wherever I go." **Mirror:** antique, mid-19th century, *The Golden Triangle*. **Sconces:** *Arteriors*. **Side table:** *HomeGoods*.



ALISON VICTORIA HAD NEVER considered herself an apartment kind of girl. But when she laid eyes on the Stacks lofts, a converted 1880s textile mill in Atlanta, the HGTV star immediately knew she had to buy a unit there—even if only to flip it.

At the time, Victoria was living in her native Chicago (filming her hit show *Windy City Rehab*) and visiting Atlanta to guest star in Ty Pennington's renovation show *Ty Breaker*. By the time the show wrapped, she'd made an offer on a unit in the Stacks, never really intending to live there. But the further along the project got, the more she found herself falling in love with it. "I started getting *really* into the project and decided I wanted to keep this home for the rest of my life," Victoria admits. "I have never loved a place as much as this one."

The two-bedroom, two-bath loft sits on the fourth floor of the landmark complex in Cabbagetown, a neighborhood downtown. Victoria enlisted a local contractor, Alistair Herriot of Hammertime Construction, and her lead designer, Kristy Yarbrough, to help revamp the space, extending the mezzanine level 133 square feet over the ground-floor kitchen to make the primary suite roomier. To give the 26-foot ceiling an infinite feel, it was painted (along with the walls and exposed pipes) Pure White by Benjamin Moore.

The loft's concrete floors had a red-orange stain, so Victoria laid vinyl plank flooring that resembles hard-



FAUX CANDLES FLICKER ON BY REMOTE CONTROL.

wood. But a few original aspects were deemed worth keeping: patinated wood posts and a spiral staircase, which Victoria revived with a newel post from an old Chicago mansion.

In the kitchen, new brass upper cabinets and sconces draw attention to the custom range hood by local artisan Mark Wentz. And extra antique finds, Victoria's specialty, are everywhere: An 18th-century marble mantel now anchors the main seating

area. (It's filled with faux candles that turn on with the press of a remote to set the mood.) Upstairs, to enclose the wardrobe and en suite bath, Victoria put aged French doors on a barn track.

Throughout, the designer sourced pieces from Chicago and Atlanta. "I'm kind of in a transition phase right now," she admits. "**What do I want? Where do I want to be? What makes me happy?** Chicago will always be home, but it doesn't have to be the only one." ■