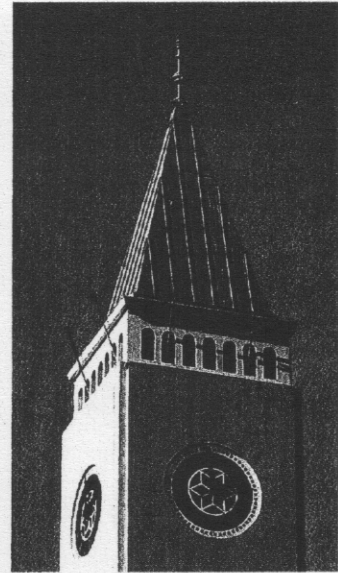
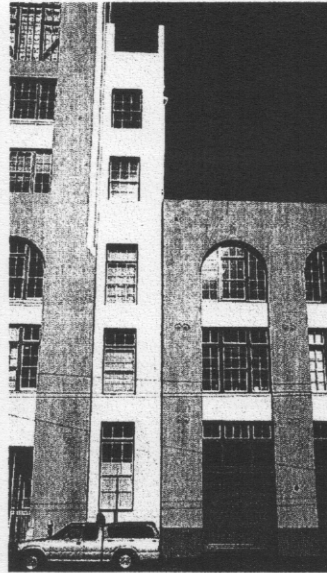
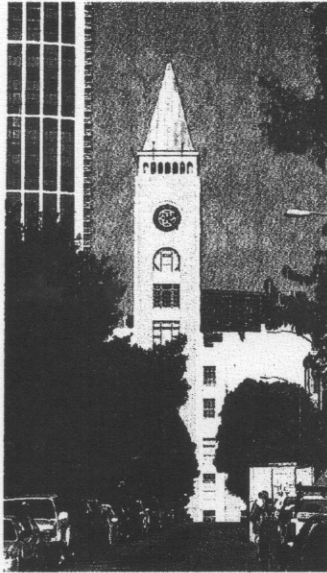


## BAY AREA

CITYSCAPE *By John King*

# Powerful forms can outlast style

Simplicity is an architectural virtue when it translates to rhythmic depth and anchor-like strength. This former home of Schmidt Lithograph began with the block-long masonry base, the lone flourish a line of arched third-floor windows. Then came the slender clock tower, a metal-capped container for water tanks. These elements remained powerful even as the Bay Bridge rose next door, as printing presses were replaced by residential lofts and now as downtown's skyline draws near. Frills soon fade. Simple moves are the ones that count.



Photos by John King / The Chronicle

**Clocktower Lofts** 461 Second St. | **Architect:** Tower, H.C. Baumann. Restoration, David Baker + Partners  
**Style:** Industrial classic | **Size:** Three stories with 170-foot tower | **Date built:** 1907, 1920, restored 1993

*Cityscape is a weekly look at a distinct slice of San Francisco, courtesy [jking@sfgate.com](mailto:jking@sfgate.com).*