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MAGAZINE

YOUR GUIDE TO LOCAL DESIGN

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Great Design Now!

FRESH IDEAS FROM LOCAL INTERIOR DESIGNERS

INTERIOR DESIGNER
Laura Ramsey Engler AT HOME
IN MINNETONKA
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N.A.R.T.
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
THE REMODELING CONTRACTORS
MINNESOTA
CHAPTER

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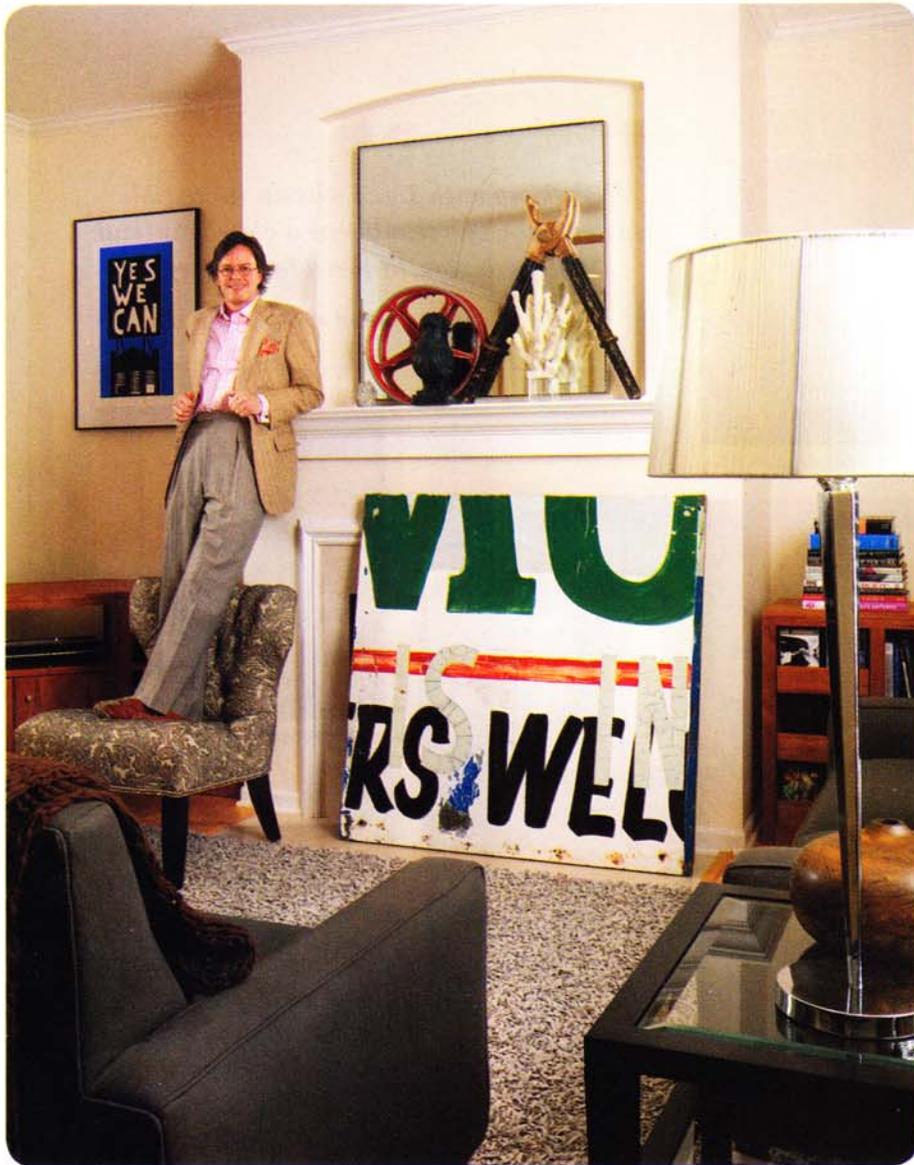


THE BEST IN
LOCAL DESIGN:
2009 ASID AWARD
WINNERS

WHY WE
LOVE
BELGIAN
MODERN

ANTIQUES
DEALER JEFFREY
DUCHARME'S
BUCOLIC SHOP

LET'S HAVE
COFFEE!
EASY SPRING
ENTERTAINING



ABOVE: The client's living room, before Rabatin's transformation.

LEFT: Michael Rabatin in the client's fabulous urban getaway.

Five Weeks to Fabulous!

Michael Rabatin taps retail sources and savvy design know-how to create a pied-à-terre that's just what the doctor ordered.

Michael Rabatin loves retail. To be fair, the Minneapolis-based interior designer also appreciates a good showroom and a great art gallery, but when the going gets tough, the former Ralph Lauren and Gabberts design director goes shopping at thrift shops, antiques shops, museum gift shops, big box stores, and even T.J. Maxx and sister store HomeGoods. "As a designer, I appreciate retail because, like clothing, you can try it on, see how it fits, bring it home and see how it feels," Rabatin says. "Mixed with custom pieces and fine fabrics, retail is an easy way to make a home feel like you."

Recently, a physician from Rochester requested Rabatin's help with a pied-à-terre on the River Road in Minneapolis. The three-bedroom condo was to be used for urban getaways and the goal was simple—make it feel welcoming without spending a lot of money, and have it ready

in five weeks.

Usually that's not enough time to order even a single chair from most manufacturers. But Rabatin rose to the challenge. After talking to the client to understand what he wanted his "city life" to look and feel like, Rabatin made a lengthy list, took a deep breath, and started shopping.

First stop: Room & Board for a clean, contemporary sofa for the living room. The sofa was upholstered in gray flanne and paired with a leather rug from Rugs Direct, a sleek lamp from HomeGoods, and a simple, glass-topped side table from Go Home Furnishings. Using styling skills honed at Ralph Lauren, Rabatin combined a quirky pair of wooden pliers, a vintage metal wheel, an antique owl sculpture, and a piece of coral to add drama to the mantelpiece. A bright blue "Yes We Can" poster brings color and energy to the room and plays off the vivid blue Cambria countertop in the kitchen.

Rabatin, an aficionado of culture in all its forms, champions local artists. One of his favorites is John Alspach, who uses reclaimed wood, signage, and other distressed surfaces to create large, compelling pieces of contemporary urban art. At Alspach's Shiny Robot studio, Rabatin found a piece made from a fragment of an old metal sign with the words "is in" overlaid against the word "well." As a metaphor for Rabatin's design project, the piece is just what the doctor ordered.

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Ideas & Inspiration from the Pros }



Laura Ramsey Engler, Lucy Penfield, and Michael Rabatin share ideas and inspiration for creating high style at a practical price point.



1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



7.



8.



1. Lucy Penfield uses brightly colored design books to add a jolt of color to a room.

2. Laura Ramsey Engler turned a closet into a treasure trove of dishes, glassware, and other entertaining accoutrements.

3. and 7. Michael Rabatin likes the energy of contemporary posters and the personality of local art.

4. and 6. Ramsey Engler mixes high and low with Costco orchids, heirloom china, and place mats from JCPenney.

5. and 8. Neutral slipcovers hide luxurious French upholstery to give Ramsey Engler's dining room chairs two distinct looks.

9. Penfield's mood board is a constant source of ideas and inspiration.