

HOME DESIGN TOP

50

From iconic architecture to innovative local products, top-of-the-line show rooms to talented artists, thousands of ideas and sources of inspiration for the home are all around us in the Twin Cities. We polled a team of local design experts for their favorites—plus weighed in with some of our editors' picks. **BY SHAWN GILLIAM**

HIGH-FLYING CARPETS

The ultimate in custom carpets starts with a simple pencil sketch. From there, Richard Rehl meticulously paints a rendering of his proposed pattern, which itself is a work of art. After receiving client approval, he sends it to a mill for a sample—and ultimately the plush finished product. It's been his livelihood for eleven years at **AUBRY-ANGELO**. Rehl is always eyeing exquisite ready-made carpets, too, including the one from Afghanistan, shown. Available to the trade at International Market Square, Mpls., 612-288-0898, aubryangelo.com

Special thanks

to our panel of design experts: architects James Dayton, David Heide, Connie Lindor, and Julie Snow; interior designers Billy Beson, Andrew Flesher, Bruce Kading, and Martha O'Hara; builder Steven Streeter; International Market Square general manager Carolyn Olson; and Tom Fisher, professor and dean of the University of Minnesota College of Design.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY PAUL CROSBY + MICHAEL HENDRICKSON + MARK LUINENBURG



SPUNKY HOUSEWARES

Brooms, boxes, and other bold household items from such places as Copenhagen and Cologne, on display at **ROAM**, are so fun they'll bring an appreciation for modern design to even the traditionally inclined shopper. 813 Glenwood Ave., Mpls., 612-377-6465

WARM MODERNISM

ROOM & BOARD is plenty proud of its own furniture lines, but sometimes the Golden Valley-based retailer squeezes in special designs from outside. This year, it's the Hans J. Weger CH_28 Sawbuck chair, for which manufacturer Carl Hansen & Son granted Room & Board exclusive sales rights in the United States. The reintroduction is the first time the oak-and-walnut piece has been on the market since the 1960s; an original from that time is on display at the Danish Museum of Art & Design in Copenhagen. 7010 France Ave. S., 952-927-8835, roomandboard.com

EXQUISITE CRAFTSMANSHIP

Cabinets custom built with care and creativity hold a special place in home design, and Matt Eastvold at **EASTVOLD CUSTOM WOODWORKING** is architect Connie Lindor's favorite source. "One of the most important aspects of designing an interior is to have the cabinets correct," she says. "Matt is willing to take the risks and use new materials." 12980 Dennison Blvd., Dennison, 507-645-1621, eastvoldcustom.com



HOME THEATER 101

"John Deering is my go-to guy," designer Billy Beson says. "He integrates home theaters with lighting and telephone controls and designs systems you can actually use. A lot of people's programs are so complicated you need either a seven-year-old or Einstein to be able to make them work." **JOHN DEERING THEATER DESIGN**, International Market Square, Mpls., 612-604-0202, jdtheaterdesign.com

JEWELRY FOR THE HOME

Sleek Italian hardware source Valli & Valli is a favorite line of architect Julie Snow. You can find it at **NOB HILL HARDWARE**, along with dozens of high-quality lines representing every style. 7630 Wayzata Blvd., Mpls., 612-824-7424, nobhillhardware.com

RENEWED TAKE

Whether it's an antique door made in a British-occupied territory or an old iron grate from a local salvage yard, Robb Whittle has turned repurposing architectural items and furnishings into a fascinating business. His shop, **GREAT ESTATE HOME & GARDEN**, is chock full of distinctive items for the home, all with foundations in Whittle's special finds. 10001 Minnetonka Blvd., Minnetonka, 952-933-9924



"Rice Park in St. Paul is so beautiful in the summer and at Christmastime with the lights. Stepping out of the Ordway, you'd almost think you were in a European city with the Landmark Center, The Saint Paul Hotel, and the library—beautiful architecture all around."

—designer Andrew Flesher

CITY SOPHISTICATION

Originally built in 1927 as a residential hotel, **510 GROVELAND** is considered by many to be one of Minneapolis's most architecturally sophisticated buildings. "What I love about 510 is how it makes me feel like I'm on New York's Upper East Side," says designer Andrew Flesher, who lives in the building. "It feels like a grand old hotel, and it's the only building of its kind in Minneapolis."

ARCHITECTURAL DETAILS YOU SEE EVERY DAY

"The glass-block-style windows at the front of Bank [restaurant] are decorated with stylized owls. The way they glow, they have an almost Lalique crystal quality to them. That whole façade is very much a jewel in the middle of downtown."

—designer Bruce Kading
BANK, 88 S. 6th St., Mpls., 612-656-3255



Local Innovations:

9 QUARTZ COUNTERTOPS

"More and more of our designers, including everyone in our firm, are creating green environments. Cambria is a manufactured product using crushed quartz, and the company is constantly coming out with new products that are actually cooler than granite."

—designer Billy Beson

Le Sueur-based **CAMBRIA** recently opened a new, larger show room with kitchen and bath sets. International Market Square, Mpls., 612-604-0034, cambriausa.com

10 COOL FURNITURE

The \$699 Desk 51, shown, and the \$99 Real Good chair (see GoodStuff, page 80) provide a sampling of the high-design, relatively low-cost furnishings that have brought national attention to Minneapolis-based **BLU DOT**. "We're so lucky to have them here," architect Connie Lindor says. "They're always pushing the boundaries." The furniture is available locally at Roam, or at bludot.com

13 MADE TO ORDER

Furniture designer **TOM OLIPHANT** is highly regarded for inventive custom pieces and counts the Candy lamp among his offerings. "You can give him a furniture idea and trust it will be done perfectly," architect Connie Lindor says. 612-781-8851, thomasoliphant.com



14 GOING GREEN

Zero-VOC paints (with poster-size swatches) are among the eco-friendly home products at **NATURAL BUILT HOME**. 4020 Minnehaha Ave., Mpls., 612-605-7999, naturalbuilthome.com



15 WORLDLY GOODS

"Midtown Global Market isn't fancy, it's almost like a street fair," says interior designer Andrew Flesher, who loves the rich mix of ethnic food ingredients and items for the home. Recent finds include the mud cloth from Mali and the basket from Kenya from **SIMBA CRAFTWARE**, shown. 920 E. Lake St., Mpls., 612-871-4887



FLANDERS AND CITILIGHTS PHOTOS BY MARIKA LUDWIG-BURG

MICHAEL HENDRICKSON



LOCAL GALLERIES

"Flanders is my favorite gallery in town," designer Billy Beson says. "Where else can you find a pair of six-foot-square Jim Dine paintings for \$500,000, as well as pieces by local artists more in the \$1,500 to \$2,000 range?" **FLANDERS**, 3012 Lyndale Ave. S., Mpls., 612-344-1700, flanders-art.com. Other galleries our panelists shop: **CIRCA**, 210 N. 1st St., Mpls., 612-332-2386, circagallery.org; **GALLERY 360**, 3011 W. 50th St., Mpls., 612-925-2400; **GRIFFIN GALLERY**, 5222 W. 78th St., Mpls., 952-844-9884; **WEINSTEIN GALLERY**, 908 W. 46th St., Mpls., 612-822-1722, weinstein-gallery.com

FANTASTIC TILE

From the tiniest glass mosaics to stone-look pavers measuring two feet square, tile can define a room's style: "Fantasia carries everything from modern to traditional," builder Steven Streeter says. "Chances are, what you get here won't look like what everybody else has." The tile shown is from **FANTASIA, International Market Square**, Mpls., 612-338-5811, fantasiashowrooms.com. Other favorite sources: **RBC TILE & STONE**, 1820 Berkshire Ln. N., Plymouth, 763-559-5531, rbctile.com and **RUBBLE TILE**, 6001 Culligan Way, Minnetonka, 952-938-2599, and 3220 W. Co. Rd. 42, Burnsville, 952-882-8909; rubbletile.com

ILLUMINATING IDEAS

Family run **CITILIGHTS** is a perennial favorite for contemporary fixtures. 1619 Hennepin Ave., Mpls., 612-333-3168. Other sources our panelists love: **LAPPIN LIGHTING**, 222 N. 2nd St., Mpls., 612-339-5555, lappinlighting.com, and **LIGHTWORKS** (for vintage and hard-to-tell-they're-renew reproductions), 404 Washington Ave. N., Mpls., 612-724-8311, lightworkslighting.com

Hall of Famers:

19 JOHN GABBERT

While he's from the Gabbert furniture family (his dad, Don, was the company's founder and his brother Jim is its current president), John Gabbert has gone his own way with Room & Board, bringing warm modern design to furniture fans from coast to coast. From the company's Golden Valley headquarters, Gabbert and teams of designers and buyers plan new products for annual launches, keeping in mind Room & Board's high-quality, reasonable-cost roots while sneaking in the occasional surprise (see Saw-buck chair, page 118).



20 STEPHANIE ODEGARD

Sophisticated style and social responsibility are the hallmarks of the highly regarded carpet company bearing Odegard's name. The former Minnesotan, once a buyer at Dayton Hudson, maintains eight show rooms in the United States, including one in Minneapolis's North Loop, where you can see dozens of handmade Himalayan wool carpets and learn about the RugMark Foundation, which ensures that carpets are made without child labor. Odegard serves as a director of the foundation, and all Odegard carpets bear its label.



21 RALPH RAPSON

Considered by many to be Minnesota's most important architect of the twentieth century, Rapson designed the original Guthrie Theater and is credited with humanizing modern architecture. Both through work at his firm and as dean of the University of Minnesota's school of architecture, he mentored three generations of young architects, making a lasting impression on the Twin Cities' architectural scene.



22 TOM GUNKELMAN

With more than forty years in the business, interior designer Tom Gunkelman has made his mark on hundreds of Twin Cities homes. His firm, Gunkelman Flesher, has landed dozens of stories in such glossies as *House Beautiful*, *Metropolitan Home*, and *Traditional Home*, sharing its simple, classic look with the world.



HOMEDESIGNTOP 50



MARK LUINENBURG

Cool new technologies AND DESIGN CONCEPTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

23 SOLAR POWER

The University was one of twenty universities tapped to compete in the 2009 U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon. Its designs for an innovative solar-powered house and car will make their way to the National Mall in Washington, D.C., next year.

24 CARBON NEUTRAL

The idea of carbon-neutral homes (buildings using materials and systems that don't produce carbon emissions) is well under way in Minnesota, with a goal of 100 percent carbon neutrality for new buildings by 2030, thanks to the Center for Sustainable Building Research (csbr.umn.edu) and such architects as Sarah Nettleton.



25 LOW COST + HIGH DESIGN

The College of Design has discovered that recycled, waterproof oriented-strand board is an excellent low-cost structural material for the rapid construction of houses. A recently completed project in St. Paul, shown, boasts remarkable charm and comfort.

26 HELLO, HYDROGEN

Seventy-two photovoltaic panels on the roof at the College of Design are being used to make hydrogen, which researchers then convert to electricity. It's the leading edge of what's to come, even on snow days.

WORLD VIEW

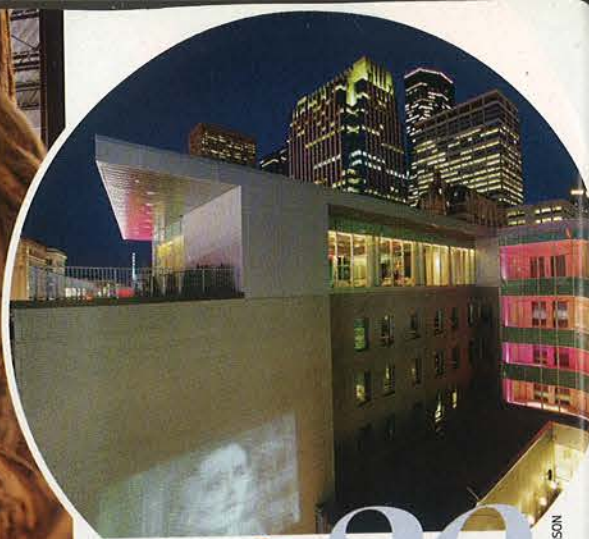
Many Minnesotans know of Ian Grant's knack for finding Asian antiques and giving them a new twist, but folks nationwide were recently able to see him at work in New York thanks to the Travel Channel special *The Deal Hunter with Ian Grant*, which has aired several times this winter (no word yet on whether the cable channel will make it a regular series). His show room, **BJORLING & GRANT**, moved last summer to a location that tripled the space for its treasure trove. 4906 W. 35th St., St. Louis Park, 612-827-3000, bjorlinggrant.com

INTERNATIONAL MARKET SQUARE

The Twin Cities' design center, **INTERNATIONAL MARKET SQUARE**, boasts eighty show rooms within a dramatically sky-lit architectural envelope. Kitchen/bath and building products show rooms sell directly to the public; other firms work primarily with the trade, but the IMS Design Connection referral service connects visitors with independent designers. Highlights include the elegant 12,000-square-foot **HOLLY HUNT** show room, shown, **WATERWORKS**, and myriad kitchen-design studios. 275 Market St., Mpls., 612-338-6250, imsdesignonline.com



PAUL CROSBY/TABLE PHOTOGRAPHY, MICHAEL HEDRICK/OSON



CHAMBERS ROOFTOP LOUNGE PHOTO BY JERRY SWANSON

HIP HOTELS

The Twin Cities boasts an increasingly chic hotel scene, and **CHAMBERS** is a design favorite. "There are so many wonderful places, from the outdoor courtyard to the great rooftop terrace to the interiors surrounded by art," architect Connie Lindor says. "The variety of fantastic spaces makes it compelling." 901 Hennepin Ave., Mpls., 612-767-6900, chambersminneapolis.com

EXOTIC ELEMENTS

The allure of Morocco has long captivated Jennifer Vervoort-Smith, who still heads to Casablanca and Marrakesh for buying trips twice a year to stock her downtown Wayzata shop, **SOLEIL BRULE**. Whether it's a dainty perfume bottle or a walnut side table with mother-of-pearl inlay, shown (also see Trend Alert, page 77), her picks flavor any décor. 726 E. Lake St., Mpls., 952-476-9600



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MARK LUTENBURG



The Drives:

31 SUMMIT AVENUE, ST. PAUL

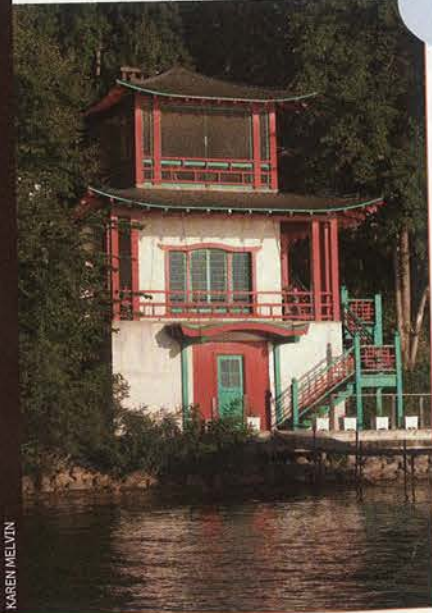
It's no wonder this sweeping street, considered the best-preserved Victorian boulevard in America, is full of inspiration for architects and designers: Every block in the four-and-a-half-mile stretch (starting at the Cathedral of St. Paul and heading west to the Mississippi) boasts intricately carved columns, magnificent doorways, and enchanting porches. Many of the homes were designed by renowned architect Cass Gilbert.

32 THE CITY LAKES, MINNEAPOLIS

A beautifully maintained, diverse mix of houses—from Italianate mansions to shingle-style cottages—graces the banks of Lake of the Isles, Lake Calhoun, and Lake Harriet. "I'm always borrowing ideas from those grand homes, looking for ideas to make new houses look like they've been around for fifty years," designer Bruce Kading says.

33 THE BOAT DRIVE, LAKE MINNETONKA

Lining miles of the Lake Minnetonka shore are some of the state's most beautiful architectural gems, including grand estates with boathouses from a bygone era.



KAREN MELVIN

ANTIQUING WITH AN EXPERT EYE

Jane Ingenhutt with Zachary at International Market Square is a highlight on the Twin Cities antiques highway. "Jane contributes to all of our projects in some way," architect David Heide says. "She has identified exceptional one-of-a-kind re-

sources." **ZACHARY**, International Market Square, 612-305-1201, zacharyltd.net. Other sources our panelists adore: **ANTIQUÉ MANOR**, International Market Square, Mpls., 612-333-1685, and 1250 Wayzata Blvd. E., Wayzata, 952-476-8915; **COE & CHANNEL**, 272 Hennepin Ave., Mpls., 612-872-2227

THE NORTH LOOP

Sophisticated boutiques such as ID Inside Design and Odegard rub shoulders with kitchen/bath show rooms Montaggio and Poliform, plus Lappin Lighting and Lightworks (see page 121), Antiques Riverwalk, and the new (second) home of International Design Center in this mostly loft-residential Minneapolis neighborhood. ID Inside Design, part of the notable interiors firm Walsh Design Group, is known for such pieces as the Archer chair, shown. **ID INSIDE DESIGN**, 211 N. 1st St., 612-317-0045; **ODEGARD**, 210 N. 2nd St., 612-455-6100; **MONTAGGIO**, 150 2nd Ave. S., 612-333-6264; **POLIFORM MINNEAPOLIS**, 100 2nd Ave. N., 612-333-0053; **ANTIQUES RIVERWALK**, 210 3rd Ave. N., 612-339-9352; **INTERNATIONAL DESIGN CENTER**, 219 N. 2nd St., 612-332-2342



VOLUMES OF IDEAS

"The bookstores at the Walker and the Weisman are two of the best resources in town. Here you get great exposure to architectural books and other design materials you can't find at typical bookstores." —architect James Dayton

SMALL WONDERS

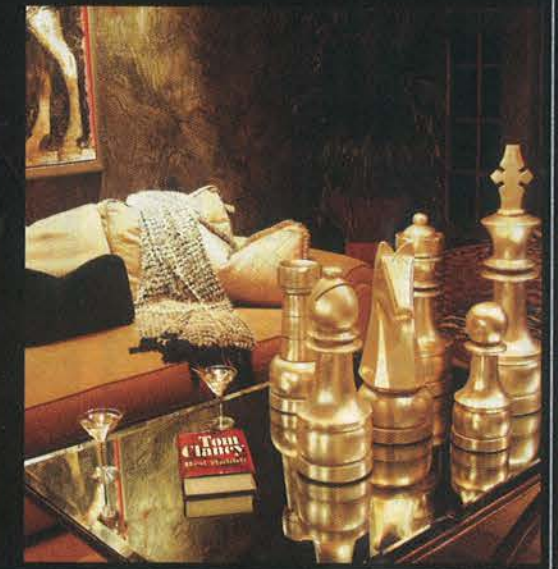
Alchemy Architects' **WEEHOUSES** (651-647-6650, weehouses.com) meld compelling prefabricated modules, as shown at Phillips Garden in Minneapolis. Another fave: **FLATPAK** (612-788-5355, flatpakhouse.com) by Minneapolis architect and BluDot co-founder Charles Lazor.



HOUSE EXHIBIT

"There's something about the level of detail in which the Purcell-Cutts house was conceived, the collection of little moments that somehow all hangs together." —architect Julie Snow

For tour information: 612-870-3131, artsmia.org



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Winner of a 2007 ASID award for Residential New Construction 5,000 – 7,000 sq. ft., Gabberts designer Karen Hodgdon, along with Jim McNeal of De Novo Architects and Pete Boyer of Pete Boyer Construction will share the steps they use, working with you, to create the ideal home for your family.

Redesign. Redo. Renew.
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HOMEDESIGNTOP 50



EASY ELEGANCE

Although it has the sophistication of a to-the-trade show room, **SCHREIER HOME**, run by Jeff Schreier, is open to all, with pieces available for purchase right from the floor. Upholstered items and casegoods from Baker, EJ Victor, and Century receive top billing, but there are plenty of smaller-scale, less-expensive options, as well, including dozens of accessories for under \$50. 124 S. 2nd St., Stillwater, 651-426-8428, schreierhome.com



INSPIRED EXHIBITIONS

What once was a Polish dance hall in Northeast has been transformed into the **MINNESOTA CENTER FOR PHOTOGRAPHY**, which pulls off six shows a year. "One of my favorite weekend days would be to go to the Modern Cafe for breakfast and then to stop here to check out the exhibits," architect Connie Lindor says. 165 13th Ave. NE, Mpls., 612-824-5500, mncp.org. Another favorite: **MIDWAY CONTEMPORARY ART**, 527 2nd Ave. NE, Mpls., 612-605-4504, midwayart.org

AMAZING DECORATIVE ARTISTS

The rich finish of a fine interior often comes thanks to a talented decorative artist. "Jennifer Kranz has a mural in one of my client's homes, a pasture scene with sheep," designer Bruce Kading says. "Between its intricate detailing and the way it wraps around you, you'd swear you were amongst it all. And with her trompe l'oeil quinos, you have to look two to three times to know they're not real." **JENNIFER KRANZ**, 20055 Michael Ave., Hastings, 651-438-3327. Other favorite sources: **ELIAS-CARTWRIGHT** (mural shown), 1823 Western Ave., Roseville, 651-487-1684, eliascartwright.com; **STEVE KLEIN-PASTE**, 612-703-2404

THOUGHTFUL DEVELOPMENTS

Hailed by architecture critics and urban planners worldwide, **JACKSON MEADOW** in Marine-on-St. Croix beautifully blends land conservation and a strong sense of community. Duluth architect David Salmela's work on the project, which pays homage to rural Minnesota's simple vernacular and includes six miles of trails, garnered the American Institute of Architects Award for Urban Design and Planning in 2005.



GOURMET KITCHENS

The latest in kitchen designs, right down to storage-savvy drawer fittings, is yours at such exceptional sources as Poggenpohl, Valcucine, and Pedini, all at International Market Square. **POGGENPOHL**, part of Partners 4 Design, 952-927-4444, partners4design.com; **VALCUCINE**, 612-341-4588, valcucinempls.com; **PEDINI**, 612-746-0678, pedinitwincities.com

DISTINCT VARIETY

No other neighborhood boasts as many twentieth-century architectural styles as **UNIVERSITY GROVE** in St. Paul. A drive down its eight blocks reveals 103 homes built over a sixty-year period—colonials, capes, and contemporaries bound to inspire and educate.



WE WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A FEW COUNTERPOINTS.

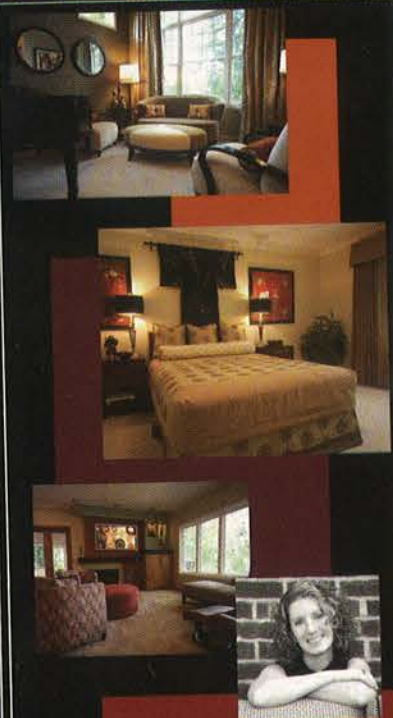
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THE NEXT GENERATION
She's a Minneapolis girl, he's a St. Paul boy. She's a classicist, he's modern. But for all their contrasts, Andrea Swan and Charlie Simmons, both thirty-four, agreed they could make bolder contributions to the local residential design scene. In January they broke away from prestigious TEA2 Architects to form their own firm, SWAN+SIMMONS, and are fast finishing their studio to prepare for their first clients. If their work at TEA2 is any indication, future projects are sure to be bright additions to the landscape. International Market Square, Mpls., 612-338-5976



MIXING WOODS
With more choices in wood species and schemes than ever, it pays to check out your options. Designers laud LON MUSOLF, 985 E. Berwood Ave., Vadnais Hts., 651-484-3020, and 7452 Washington Ave., Eden Prairie, 952-946-1332; lonmusolf.com

FRANCE AVENUE FURNITURE ROW
A day driving along France Avenue from downtown Edina (Dwelling Designs, Decori) past Heinrich+Schultz enroute to Galleria (Gabberts, shown below, plus Pottery Barn, Restoration Hardware, and soon Crate & Barrel), then to Room & Board, Ethan Allen, and Macy's Southdale Furniture Gallery is the best way to fulfill your furniture fix. Good news! THE CONTAINER STORE and WEST ELM will round out the mix this fall. DWELLING DESIGNS, 612-922-9361; DECORI, 952-922-0111; GABBERTS, 952-927-1500; HEINRICH + SCHULTZ, 952-920-2258; POTTERY BARN, 952-925-1610; RESTORATION HARDWARE, 952-926-5557; ROOM & BOARD, 952-927-8835; ETHAN ALLEN, 952-926-6551; MACY'S SOUTHDAL FURNITURE GALLERY, 952-896-2160

ICONIC ARCHITECTURE
"Critics always ask me how jealous I am that these places around town—the Guthrie, the Walker, the Weisman—have gone to architects outside Minneapolis. I thank God we have them, that I can head across the river from my office and walk through a Frank Gehry building and experience firsthand what a world-class design is all about. It makes my architecture better and the city better."
—architect James Dayton



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ON LINE
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ative activists." And that's a description that I wouldn't at all shy away from, and that's one of the things that guides what we write about and what we say. But we're independent. It wouldn't be fair to say that we're members of a team—we disagree and say what we think. The minute you stop saying what you think is the minute you start wasting your time. With a hobby like ours, if you're not going to say what you think, then what the hell are you doing it for?

No offense, but you're fifty-seven years old. Why did you decide to write a blog? I'm not crazy about the term *blogger*. I never call myself that, and my guess is that in ten years we will not be hearing that word. Anyway—by 2002, Scott and I had been writing together for ten years. And we'd grown sort of frustrated with the media, with the 750-word space, and the fact that you need to wrestle with the deadline every

time you write a piece and then by the time it runs a week later no one cares anymore. And by 2001, I had become an Internet junkie and thought that it was a pretty cool thing.

Did you have any role models starting out? Andrew Sullivan was an inspiration, of course, and Stephen den Beste's **USS CLUELESS** blog came in at about exactly the same time as ours, but he's not around anymore. It didn't take me very long to figure out that this could be a good medium for Scott and me to work in because you can just do it when you have time. If you've got something to say and it takes only a hundred words—fine, there it is. I really like the flexibility of the medium and the speed.

How much time do you spend on your blog? People ask us how we find time to do this and there are lots of different answers to that question, but one of the answers is, we can write really fast. One of the things a lawyer has to be able to do is bang stuff out relatively quickly

and have it be careful and accurate. We spend probably an average of two hours apiece on the website.

Two hours apiece writing? Two hours apiece total—six hours total between the three of us. I average an hour and a half a day just reading stuff.

Online? Oh, 100 percent online. Usually, I'll start doing some reading early in the morning while I'm getting ready for work. I've got the laptop next to my sink and I'll be shaving and reading the newspapers. Then during the day, it just depends on what I'm doing. If I'm taking a deposition or something, I can't do it, but if I'm in the office, I might look at the highlights, check out the new headlines to see what's going on, and if there's something I think I could try to comment on, I'll post something.

I want to get back to the idea of "conservative activism." Isn't there a risk of POWER LINE becoming an echo

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