

SWOOPS AND FLARES

Furniture as theater



The Not-So-Long credenza (above) and Crescent bed (below), shown in alegre, are available in other woods.



Ted Boerner on a custom-made chair; his Small nightstand, in figured alegre, an African wood, is part of the Storage collection.



The seat of Boerner's Diamond Back chair, in maple and cherry, is also available upholstered. See Resources.

Ted Boerner's new line of furniture could fill an entire apartment: he's done everything from chairs and tables to beds, dressers, and storage units—even a few TV cabinets. But you won't have to throw out the old stuff. "It's very important to me that these pieces work with what people already own," Boerner says. "You shouldn't have to look at a room and say, 'Now, where am I going to put the new piece?'"

A former theatrical designer, Boerner is perhaps best known for his Spiral chair, which harks back to '40s and '50s Hollywood. Although Boerner says he prizes the "swoops and flares, the movement and animation" of mid-century moviedom as much for its kinetic quality as for any intrinsic nostalgic value, there's a more fundamental impulse to his work as well. "I'm trying to evoke a sense of place with my furniture," says Boerner, who started Ted Boerner Furniture Design with partner Frank Pontes four years ago. "When I'm designing a chair or sofa, I'll ask myself, 'Will that make me feel comfortable?' And I don't just mean when I'm sitting in it."

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