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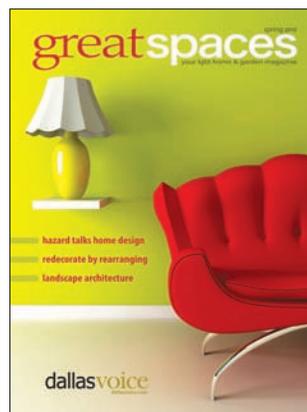
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# Hazard assessment

Designer Roger Hazard from 'Sell This House' talks up Texas, TV and interiors

By Rich Lopez

Let's face it. There are two reasons to watch *Sell This House*. The second would be learning how to stage your home to sell better. And in this market, anything helps. The first, well, that should be easy enough.

For obvious reasons, Roger Hazard has attracted a big gay following over the eight seasons the show has been on. A handsome, bearded musclebear is hard to resist. But get past the exterior (as difficult as that may be) and discover an artist at heart.

After finishing an episode, Hazard spoke about his time in Texas and how it led to him being an unexpected pioneer in both television and even the real estate and design industries.

*Sell This House* airs Saturdays at 8:30 a.m on A&E.

**Dallas Voice: You actually grew up in Texas.** Hazard: Yeah, I grew up in Houston mostly, but went to school for a year at Highland Park.

I studied landscape architecture at Texas A&M. I worked for a landscape company in Houston and then began flipping houses there. We did shoot a show in Dallas about, I think, three or four years ago.

**Then you moved to Atlanta. How was it there?** I started flipping homes in Atlanta and did very well. I was flipping about four homes a year. I started staging them to sell quicker and I sold with the furniture I bought for it. That brought in a lot of people. I developed quite a following then but I needed more of a challenge. So I moved to New York.

**Is that where you switched to more interior work?** I took a position with a top interior design firm. In three months, they said I was overqualified. But now I'm doing some more commercial work in New York.

**How was it to go from exteriors to interiors?** It depends on the project but there is more of a demand for interior work. You know, a lot of it's the same as when I was studying architecture: light, form, color. All the same principles are applied.

**Your career just seems to ascend. How did the TV show come**



Roger Hazard not only knows how to fill a shirt, he can fill a room with just a few touches as he did in these before and after comparisons.



**about?** One of my clients that worked in TV was bragging about me at a pitch meeting. Someone said, "I see a TV show." About a month had passed before they called, then they sent a film crew came out and that's how the show started.

**Were you ready for TV?** Oh no. I was not ready. I pushed cameramen out of the way. TV is very structured in going about achieving a goal. You have to think backwards almost and also get the camera to catch what you're doing.

I was excited to see how it took off like wildfire. I was the first person to introduce home staging on TV and this was the only show of its kind to be

nominated for Emmys. I was very proud.

**OK, so what are some things people need to know on their own about the design of their home?** People get an emotional reaction to it. People react to furniture style and how it's arranged. If it's arranged around the TV in the living room, it makes it feel like Mom and Dad's house somehow. Know what I mean? Simple accessories and lighting are good to work with, too.

**What do you say to the person reluctant to color?** Ha! Is beige selling your house? Do you only buy beige clothes? People *do* have a reaction to color and it doesn't make a room smaller, it makes it more interesting.

**Are there common mistakes you find?** Yeah, buying furniture too big for a space. Be careful of covering up wall space with furniture. So many people use walls as an outline to place furniture. Rooms feel more open or larger when you have to walk around furniture. And you need a free wall for the eye to rest.

**Are you working on anything else right now?** I'm putting my Web site together, which should be about a couple more weeks. I've been asked several times to write a book, but I wouldn't do one about staging. I'm more about mistakes in designing. I'd call it *Design Hazards*.

**Damn, that was gonna be my headline.**



# Art for the people

Eclectic galleries prove everyone can own an original piece of art

By Rich Lopez

Gone are the days when only those in a higher tax bracket could afford that snazzy piece of original art adorning the top of the fireplace. Two local galleries — one new, one a bit more seasoned — have moved beyond the idea of unreachable art by focusing on local artists. And people from tiny studio apartments to McMansions are collecting art more and more.

"We opened to create an environment to essentially remove the notion of art as luxury," Brandon Lynch of Artisan Style gallery says.

By featuring works from local and emerging artists, he's able to maintain prices in a sensible range.

"Yes, the art is affordable but it's about environments as well. The average customer may have a new home or apartment and wants to add something," Lynch says.

Five years ago, Kettle Art opened in Deep Ellum with the same philosophy under the direction of artistic director Frank Campagna. And they don't get much hipper than this. Campagna and company work to expand the scope of Dallas art and sell it for cheap.

"We prefer showing local talent to nurture and encourage our regional culture. Simply put, if you're serious about your art, drop by and show us what you're up to," Campagna says.

In February, Kettle hosted For the Love of Kettle featuring more than 100 artists' work, all priced at \$50. Before

■ ART, Page 20



Artisan Style keeps their works affordable by working mostly with local artists. (Photo by Arnold Wayne Jones.)

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# The whole nine yards

Shahid Malik's evocative landscape designs will bring a timeless oasis to the home.

By Rich Lopez

One look at Shahid Malik's own home and it's easy to see he has style. The white palate of his Oak Lawn home is clean and sophisticated with a beautiful aesthetic. That continues to his outdoor fountain, which he designed himself. The stonework, greenery and water have a cohesion that turns his otherwise everyday patio into something else altogether. And this is just in his own home.

Malik is originally from Pakistan but found his calling in Dallas. After a slew of jobs, he discovered his hobby of working with nature could also be his job. This led him to start a simple yard business of mowing and trimming lawns. But as his clients wanted

more in the appearance of their yard, Malik's eyes began to instinctively see something new.

"When I lived in Pakistan, I always liked working with my plants. And here, I used to have an apartment with a small balcony, but we had the most beautiful flowers and plants. People would ask about it," he says.

Now, he's the owner of Malik Landscape & Design and his company will still mow your yard, but it will also bring an element of beauty that's beyond any bed of perennials. Malik brings architectural elements to his design that not only add to the value of a home, but provide something every homeowner wants — a neighbor's envy.

Working with the customer, Malik comes up with a design based on the client's vision. Sometimes the vision is entirely the client's, but Malik's perspective is not lost. The collaborative effort

translates into works of landscape oases that are part garden, part artistic and all complementing the design of the homes. The company's flyer boasts "out of the box" thinking as the "cornerstone of the company's philosophy."

"The work is hard and labor intensive, but all my designs are timeless. They don't use flowers so much. It's more about the green and stone colors and also the upkeep. The less upkeep it can be for the client, the more they will probably appreciate it," he says.

Some of his work includes heavy boulders and rocks laid precisely on top of each other with no filler. Like a puzzle, they fit together and gravity keeps the stone walls and borders in place. He'll create gardening beds out of metal welded into modern angles. Or he will line driveways with magnolia trees of just the right size that neither dominate nor disappear into the overall look.

But he knows with the current economy, not everyone is willing to jump into the high-end cost of adding his landscape design and architecture to



With both a green thumb and a green eye, Malik (opposite) worked with the architecture of the home and echoed its design in the stark metal plant beds while accessorizing the landscape with trees and stones.

their home. His company even took such a hit that he almost shut down. Having that empathy, he works hard to keep his current clients happy and allows his reputation speak for itself.

"Fancy lawns were probably the last things on people's minds," he says. "But sometimes it can be just as costly if people try to do it themselves."

Not that landscaping is impossible, but Malik sees too many times when people buy all the wrong items for their brand new designs — if they can be called that.

"People will go to Home Depot and buy everything that is pretty. But that won't work. There are things to think about."

Malik says first to come up with a plan and draw it out. This at least gets the outline going of the space you want to allot to a design and what functions you may want it to have. Designs can accentuate but can also work for the house with walkways or shade.

Next, figure what it is you want in the design. Flowers, grass, stones and plants are all the usual components, but it is important to determine what kind of attention you plan on giving to the design.

Green thumbs may revel in tending to the greens, but minimalists may just want the style of it without devoting much attention to it. Sprinkler systems may figure in at this point.

Mostly, Malik mentions the biggest mistake is getting overzealous and buying a bunch of flowers and plants that simply won't work in your space. The Dallas heat and its unpredictable nature isn't always good for, well, nature. Although these mistakes can be costly, they aren't irreparable. In fact, Malik could sweep in to save the day.

"People shouldn't think I just do high-end designs. The company also does maintenance, pruning and fertilization. If people run into these problems, they can call me. I can help get them out of their problems and get them on the way to a very nice landscape."

*For information about Malik Landscape & Designs, call 214-675-7947 or e-mail shahid-maliq@yahoo.com.*



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# Designing with a (re)purpose

If you want to redecorate, call Anthony Chisom first — he can turn any blah room into a great space all from items within the home

by Steven Lindsey

A bad economy is no excuse for being unfashionable. And that's why hiring Anthony Chisom, creative director and CEO of Anthony Chisom Interiors, has become a hot Dallas trend in home décor. Rather than completely starting over with a room, he surveys other rooms in a home to see what could breathe new life into another space.

"Anything within the house can be used. Know that everything is moveable and interchangeable and can work differently in a new room. Make the items do what you want them to do," Chisom says.

Chisom worked in retail for years, but decided to repurpose his own life to do what he's always loved.

"I started in 1999. I found out about my HIV status and didn't want to put my dream on hold any longer," he says. "Interior design is something I was always drawn to. I had all these books and magazines about it and I'd always help friends with their rooms and things of that nature."

He then found his own niche of designing that wouldn't break the budget for clients and could keep the entire process in the home.

"I would take art, furniture, desks from other rooms, just about anything you can imagine because interiors evolve. How a room is set up today may not work best for you tomorrow," he says, referring to the latest addition to his interior—an almost-two-year-old nephew, whom he plans to adopt with his partner, Derrick Smith Gentry.

For a general room repurposing, which includes rearranging furniture and art, as well as accessorizing with items within the home or recommending affordable options from home stores, his fee starts around \$500. He also brings an objective eye to helping people purge items that may be way out of style that they're holding onto for sentimental reasons. Clients may not want to get rid of these items, but they don't have to be center stage, either.

During a recent visit, he showed



how quickly and easily a living room can be reorganized to create a different vibe. He also shared some quick ways anybody can change a space on the smallest budget.

Follow these simple tips for your own repurposing:

## Color, color, color

"Color is an easy way to enhance your space and make it look completely different," he says. "It's my top tip to add color through paint, whether it's one wall or many. Also, adding something like colorful fresh flowers helps heighten the senses."

## Think small for trends

"You can never have too many pillows," he laughs. "Places like West Elm make it very easy to switch out with pil-

low slip covers. Go from a solid to something with a pattern. Keep your house as simple and basic as possible and address trends through accessories that can more easily be changed."

## Invest in quality for larger furniture

"Spend money on key pieces," he advises. "When buying a sofa, look at the interior makeup. If you go to the retailer and ask them, they'll let you look at the interior structure. Make sure it has good bones, good springs. If you have good furniture already, work on getting things reupholstered, recovered. I also like to reclaim things. Older furniture seems to be sturdier."

■ CHISOM, Page 21

Chisom lives by his philosophy that you can never have too many pillows. In the living room (below), he added pops of color with bright colored chairs. (Photos by Steven Lindsey)



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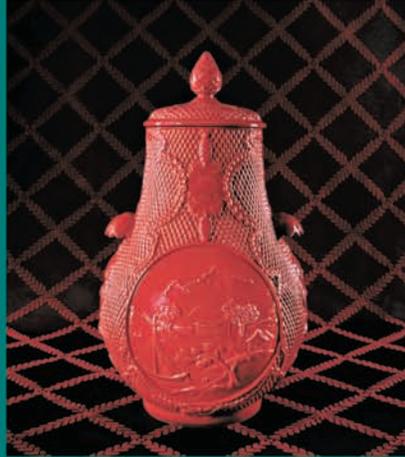
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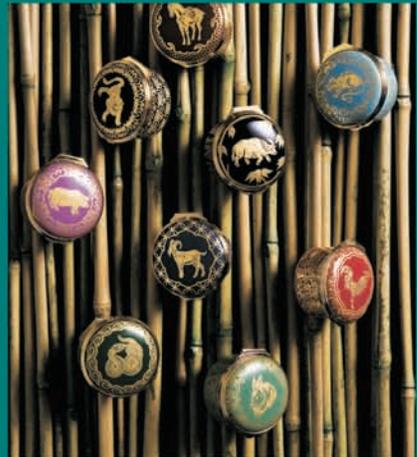
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# Purple spring

One woman keeps her penthouse far from blue with her African violets and green thumb

by Howard Lewis Russell

Mina Cunningham, inset, gave her African violets a spot all their own facing the evening sun from her Uptown highrise penthouse. (Photos by Rich Lopez)



A wise horticulturist once said, "There are flowers that grow in nature, and then there are flowers that grow in grocery stores." African violets, as with fiery Christmas poinsettias and snowy Easter lilies, are hard to imagine existing in a world void of fluorescent lighting, polystyrene pots and organically-balanced soil medium sold in 28-liter plastic bags.

Mina Cunningham, a local Dallas devotee of these beautiful, bluish flowers, is testament to why they've achieved such a speedy, and ubiquitous, global popularity far removed from their natural, East-African jungle habitat. When asked her secret for growing perfectly happy, and healthy, velvety-leaved African violets in the merciless southwestern exposure of floor-to-ceiling penthouse windows in Texas, Cunningham chuckles, "Just plain old ultraviolet window film and utter neglect, my dear."

This ain't your grandmother's win-

dow sill.

Cunningham waves an arm flourishingly across her luxuriant window display. "I made most all these from a single, original violet. You just need one to start with. To make more, pinch off a leaf, let it sit in a glass of water about, oh, a month, stick it in a small pot of dirt with a saucer that has a big rim—the rim's got to come up big and high, now, because you're not supposed to water the leaves from the top, or get them wet—you pour the water into the saucer *underneath* the pot and the dirt absorbs it: That's my secret."

African violet plant food helps, of course, she winks — "just seven drops per quart of water every time you water." The brand Cunningham swears by is Shultz African Violet Plus, Liquid Plant Food with Micronutrients 8-14-9.

"The spring season ought to bring out the farmer in all of us, but I just don't have any farmer in me, and there's nothing more disheartening in the springtime than planting flowers in a pot and watching them die, no matter what you try," Cunningham chirps.

The history of the wild African violet, however, is unique among humanity's windowsill plants in that, even

though it would *logically* seem a flower that has been "housebroken" now surely for millennia, it was, in fact, first discovered in 1892 — growing on a shaded rock ledge high up in the lush, cool jungles of the Usambara Mountains in northeast Tanzania. (What a wonder it took so long!) Unique of most eponymous-named plants, the African violet really does hail from Africa.

African violets did not even make it to the United States until 1926, and all highly varied modern varieties since are the result of hybridization. The main (if not sole) reason for their subsequent popularity as the ideal houseplant is that it likes exactly the same temperature people do. Oh, and that it's near impossible to kill doesn't hurt, either.

"Well," Cunningham, exults, "you can't kill an African violet, not even me; and best of all, their beautiful purple flowers bloom off and on the whole year long. They stay dormant a while, then they show again. All you have to do is go to the grocery store, or, like I said, pinch off a leaf from a friend's and save yourself the money, shove it in dirt and stand back. The purple springs eternal!"

## GADGET CORNER

Leave it to the Dyson folks to take a perfectly ordinary device — this time, the room fan — and make it high-tech.

The engineers would probably balk at calling their fancy air multiplier a “fan.” There are, in fact, no fan blades, and that means no buffeting (the choppy air created by spinning blades). Instead, it funnels small amount of air through a ring that gathers ambient air and shoots it out at 15 times the intake.

Who cares about the complicated mechanics, though? The point is, it’s a funky looking piece of equipment that, like many other Dyson products, is as artful to look at as to use.

There are practical advantages, like a low center of gravity, an easy-to-adjust speed setting (not just the “hi-med-lo” routine) and simple cleaning. And it tilts. Trust me, as Texas weather heats up, a fanciful fan like this is a welcome addition.

— Arnold Wayne Jones



There’s sitting and then there’s *sitting*. Known for their innovative massage chairs, Human Touch will debut the AcuTouch 9500 this summer, which may be the first chair to have its own app. Via Bluetooth, the HT-Connect app talks to the chair providing a variety of massages, wellness tips, personalized settings and even Espresso Shots, quickie massages when you’re on the go.

The price tag has a suggested retail price at \$5,999, but can you really put a price tag on complete and utter bliss, not to mention a healthier you?

— Rich Lopez



## online exclusive

If you thought broccoli just came from Luby’s Cafeteria, think again. If you’re thinking about starting your own vegetable garden, find out all you need to know about setting yourself up for sustainability. Visit **DallasVoice.com::**

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# Pests keep out

Ants, aphids and snails, oh my — there are a variety of ways to get rid of garden pests but some are more fun than others.

By David Taffet

Fire ants, aphids, slugs and snails are some of the most common garden pests we encounter in North Texas. And there are different ways to get rid of each. There's the right way and then there's my way.

Probably the most insidious pests in a Dallas garden are fire ants. The imported variety, found in this area, is more aggressive than native strains and can cause more damage. They attack other types of ants, other insects and small animals and can damage gardens and even homes and electrical lines.

When their mounds are disturbed, they become aggressive. Their bites are painful.

Armadillos feed on fire ants, but attracting these creatures



Warning: this may violate some local city ordinances. But it works.

Garden snails, or escargot as I like to call them, leave a slimy film everywhere they creep. Slugs are even slimier. Both like moisture and need water. If slugs and snails are a problem, water the garden in the morning so the ground will be dry before evening.

Before resorting to nasty chemicals, try sprinkling some salt directly on any slugs you see and they will disintegrate before your eyes. What fun!

Rosemary is a natural repellent as well. Try sprinkling some of that in the garden. It's also easy to grow and does well in our climate and traditionally bad soil.

Set traps for snails by sinking a small bowl into the soil and fill halfway with beer. The smell will attract them and as they're trying to feed, they'll drown. For those opposed to the use of alcohol for moral or religious reasons — or if you live in Oak Cliff or some other "dry" area of town — grape juice also works.

Aphids are small, destructive insects that come in a variety of colors. More than 4,400 species of these pests are known. The best organic defense against these plant-killers is ladybugs. While most garden centers will try to sell chemicals and oils to wipe on the leaves of affected plants, the cute little orange insect with black dots on their backs are actually more effective. Home Depot sells a half pint of ladybugs for \$14.95.

Or try spraying affected leaves with soapy water. That will usually get rid of an aphid infestation. Filthy little aphids just don't like nice, clean soapy water.

But there's something about going to Home Depot to purchase bugs that just appeals to me.



into the yard is probably not a good option. A better natural way of controlling fire ants is to sprinkle cayenne pepper around their mounds and along their trails. Also, mix citrus peelings and water and pour on the mound. Orange Guard is the natural, organic fire ant killer available at some private garden centers.

When those approaches fail, Amdro is the chemical, environmentally questionable alternative available at supermarkets and home centers. Sprinkling just a little on the mound usually destroys it within hours when ants take the bait and share it with their queen.

Then there's the old-fashioned Texas remedy that I prefer. It's fast, efficient and I get to play with matches. Pour some gasoline on the mound, let it soak in just enough and then set it on fire.



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Kettle Art's artistic director Frank Campagna. (Photo by Rich Lopez)

## ART

Continued from Page 8

the doors opened, a crowd had formed outside waiting to get in and purchase.

"It's more than just the cost. It's work from some of the best artists in town," Campagna says. "We've been fortunate to fill a gap that offers regional talent a place to show and supports our local scene. We carry plenty of reasonably priced, quality art, and there's a good possibility that you'll

meet the artist you purchase."

Lynch reminds though, that galleries also want to move the art fast and most will work with buyers.

"We have payment plans so why would you want a print from, say, Michael's when you can get something unique for a just a bit more money," he asks.

More money?

"Well, a bit more, yeah. Remember, the artist has to make a living."

For more information about each gallery visit [ArtisanStyle.net](http://ArtisanStyle.net) or [KettleArt.com](http://KettleArt.com).

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# CHISOM

Continued from Page 12

## Light up your world

"Lighting is best done in layers, overhead lighting, lamps. You can also have lighting put into your crown molding so it washes your wall in light. It's nice to have a good source of natural lighting. I like to mix it up with lamps. I'm not real matchy-matchy."

## Design for your lifestyle

"I prefer an open space because it

feels more relaxed. I know some people like things very categorized and separated, but I prefer an open flow," Chisom says. "Living is different than entertaining. Keep that in mind when buying furniture. If you do a lot of entertaining, make sure you can move it on your own!"

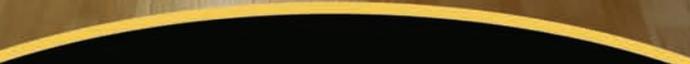
For more information, visit [AnthonyChisomInteriors.com](http://AnthonyChisomInteriors.com).

Chisom changes to a cooler palette by switching out the coffee table for ottoman cubes of a different color.



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