

MIDWEST

Home

JUNE/JULY 2011

2011
**LUXURY
HOME TOUR**
PROGRAM
INSIDE

65

Shops,
Products,
& Designs
We Love

BEST ECO
FURNITURE
PAGE 32

Best *of the*
Twin Cities

AUTO**SCH 3-DIGIT 601

\$4.50

06





WOOD SIGN
BY WILLIAM
ODHMAN,
SEE PAGE 34

loest of the **TWIN** **CITIES**

BY LILA BATTIS, ALYSSA FORD, AND CHRIS LEE
PHOTO BY TIM NEHOTTE

walnut with a white lacquered top and bottom. The profile of each is meant to represent a billowing curtain. Furniture starts at \$690 (for a small shelf) and goes up to \$1,400 for the floating desk. Contact the designer at gomezwhitney.com.

BEST INSPIRATION ▶

Bachman's hatched the perfect birthday celebration for its 125th year in 2010: The Bachman family's original 1920s cottage-style home near the Lyndale headquarters would be transformed into an **IDEAS HOUSE**. The house would be refurbished and serve as a showcase of seasonal décor using an artful mix of vintage and new items (available for purchase at the nearby store). All four versions of the Ideas House were such a hit—tickets for many time slots sold out—that the seasonal transformations continue this year. Visitors can pick up brochures that list every idea, right down to the paint color, and a portion of the \$5 ticket benefits Children's Home Society & Family Services. "People love to come to houses to see ideas that are easy, attainable, and believable," says Bachman's merchandising manager Larry Pfarr, hard at work on the summer version of the house, open May 25 to June 12.



BEST REVIVAL ▼

Well, no, it never really went away, but it certainly went out of fashion. Today, there's no question: **WALLPAPER** is back and in a very big way. Some trend-watchers attribute the resurgence to a movement away from severely minimalist decor, to a plethora of architecturally uninteresting interiors, or even to an HGTV-addicted public more confident about design. Whatever. It's clear that wonderful designs, easier-to-hang (even temporary) papers, and a yen for more fanciful and personal

best

spaces have made us fall in love with wallpaper all over again.

BEST LOCAL BOOSTER

Support Your Local Independent Everything" says the bumper sticker. It's a nice thought, but sometimes hard to pull off in real life. And yet, for more than 20 years, **ROOM & BOARD** has made a point of sourcing much of its stock from companies based in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and North Dakota. That includes its ultra-plush feather mattresses (made in St. Louis Park), its marble-topped dining tables (made in St. Cloud) and its natural steel beds (hand-welded in Golden Valley). So far in 2011, Room & Board reports it has sold more than 80,000 made-in-Minnesota products to design lovers around the country. To that we can only say: bravo. Room & Board, 7010 France Ave. S., Edina, 952-927-8835, roomandboard.com. **MH**

CHRIS LEE IS EDITOR OF *MIDWEST HOME*, AND LILA BATTIS IS AN INTERN AT THE MAGAZINE. ALYSSA FORD IS A MINNEAPOLIS WRITER.

JULY: Last year, more than 40 stores participated in the **Galleria's "Clearance Experience"**. Of particular note: the "Room of Markdowns" at Ampersand, with deep bargains on fancy dinnerware, table linens, and apothecary.

AUGUST: Many stores put on great end-of-season sales, but none better than **Restoration Hardware**. This is the place (and time) to stock up on outdoor living essentials

such as weather-hardy pillows, stylish torches, and other summery accoutrements. Check Galleria location for exact dates.

SEPTEMBER: **International Market Square** is the host of the **ASID Sample Sale**, which brings together discounted high-end furniture (up to 70 percent off) and roving interior designers, eager to give out free advice. The 2011 dates are September 23, 24, and 25.

OCTOBER: Hip retailer **Roam** (roaminteriors.com) holds but one big sale a year, and it happens just a few weeks before Halloween. Look for 50 to 70 percent off select contemporary furniture and accessories. It's two days only, so act fast.

NOVEMBER: Don't miss the big show at **International Market Square**, when the design center's showrooms consolidate their samples and last-season wares for one big

free-for-all. Hirshfield's Design Studio hosts its own sample sale, which some bargain hunters say is even better than the one at IMS.

DECEMBER: Check in with **Gabberts** (gabberts.com) for the date of its annual warehouse sale, hosted at the Rum River Lumber building in Coon Rapids. You'll be rewarded with up to 70 percent off upholstered leather furniture, mattresses, art, and casegoods.

Blu Dot Warehouse Sale: It's one of the biggest sales of the year, and the hardest to pin down. The company has held its big sale in spring, summer, and fall, and resists any attempt set a date before it's good and ready. Insiders know to get the deets via Facebook or Twitter and then high tail it to Rogers, Minnesota, where the company keeps its mod stockpile.