

**PAUL SCHULMAN** For this Lake View home, Schulman used the only available wall to build shelves made of stained cherry with stainless steel accents. Opposite, in another North Side home, he created a desk/storage unit to match one the owners had seen in a magazine. It's made of chocolate-stained rift-sawn oak with a cherry top. A cabinet for the couple's audio equipment, also in stained rift-sawn oak, features grill cloth on the front, allowing the remote to work with doors closed.



PHOTOGRAPHY: THIS PAGE AND OPPOSITE JESSICA HUSTON

**Paul Schulman Design** 4050 N. Troy St., 773-279-0044; [www.psdonline.net](http://www.psdonline.net). Nate Berkus, Tom Stringer, Shelly Handman, and other top design professionals call on Schulman for challenging furniture projects. Schulman, who has degrees in sculpture and metalsmithing, owned a home design store in Milwaukee before moving to Chicago six years ago. He has designed and built a leather-paneled cabinet for TV and audio equipment, steel coffee tables, upholstered benches, home theatres, entertainment units of all stripes, and lots of bookcases, some with sliding ladders.

## FURNITURE DESIGN/CUSTOM CABINETRY

**Design Insight** 616 W. Fulton St., 773-209-1488; [www.designinsightinc.com](http://www.designinsightinc.com). If Jerome Smith has his way, Design Insight's furniture, lighting, and interior architectural designs will have you feeling inspired and free. You can see the customized ultra-modern tables, chairs, and lamps that define Smith's work on his Web site; pieces are also available at Meble and I.D.

**European Carpenters** 312-505-9060. Henryk Kazmierczak arrived in Chicago from Poland in 1986, en route to a doctoral program in economics. When funding for the degree fell through, he turned to his father's trade. Kazmierczak's Ukrainian Village firm is known for making cabinets that are both beautiful and practical. Examples of his work include a master-suite hamper that turns into a platform for packing luggage, space-saving angled drawers, and specialty cabinets that rise from a countertop at the touch of a button.

**Evan Lewis** 3368 N. Elston Ave., 773-539-0402. In May, Lewis opened a 1,300-square-foot space to showcase his buffets, chairs, and other furniture made from steel, copper, aluminum, and bronze. His signature piece is a copper and steel two-drawer Bombay chest that costs \$11,700, but there are many less expensive options, including forged-metal vases and sconces.

**57th Street Bookcase** 1632 Orrington Ave., Evanston, 847-492-8780; 1536 N. Halsted St., 312-379-0980; [www.57thstreetbookcases.com](http://www.57thstreetbookcases.com). This business (originally located in Hyde Park) sells bookcases, stereo cabinets, office units, hutches, libraries, and more (but not kitchen cabinets) out of its Evanston and Halsted Street showrooms and Cermak Road workshop. Design services are available. Custom bookcases start at \$100, stock cases at about \$70.

**Floyd Gompf** 15964 Wintergreen Pl., Union Pier, Michigan, 269-469-5273. Self-taught woodworker Gompf salvages discarded furniture and painted millwork from doomed houses and transforms the materials into tables, cabinets, and other pieces. He fulfills commissions for custom pieces and installations out of his Michigan studio. To get an idea of what he does, visit Art Effect (934 W. Armitage Ave.), where he designed the dressing room doors, or Lovell & Whyte, in Lakeside, Michigan, which carries his furniture.

**Hylan Design** 329 W. 18th St., 312-243-7341; [www.hylan.com](http://www.hylan.com). Hylan continues to break new ground in woods: Recent projects have included quilted maple door panels and figured mahoganies with an "espresso" finish. He also finds interesting ways to work with plasma-screen televisions and elaborate home-entertainment and home-office setups, and carries a huge selection of high-end kitchen cabinetry.

**Ice Box Gallery** 2950 W. Carroll Ave., 773-722-4088; [www.theiceboxgallery.com](http://www.theiceboxgallery.com). Trained at UIC in industrial design, David Szymendera worked for several Chicago housewares manufacturers before opening his own studio in 2002. He works with metal laminates and textured steel as well as wood and wood veneers to achieve a look that is minimalist but not austere. He thinks furniture should function as an accent to artwork and other objects. "I don't want my pieces to overshadow the things displayed on or stored in them," he says.

**Jason Lewis** 1609 N. Wolcott Ave., 773-252-1392; [www.jasonlewisfurniture.com](http://www.jasonlewisfurniture.com). Lewis, formerly a partner in Studio 239 in Oak Park, now closed,