

By Romy Schafer

## Spring Releases

Home entertainment furniture boasting sophisticated styles and innovative features greeted buyers at the spring High Point Market.

Today's home entertainment casegoods run the gamut from portable consoles to adjustable wall units. This diversity enables furniture retailers to offer consumers the storage solution that best meets their needs, floor space and budget. The only thing retailers might not be able to do is help their customers choose between all the attractive and functional console, chest and wall unit models currently available. These April High Point Market introductions, however, may be deciding factors.



Designed by Cristian Wicha, BDI's Cielo unit accommodates flat-panel, rear-projection and CRT televisions. It features wood-and-steel construction; adjustable, tempered glass shelves; and a wire management system. Consumers can choose from two widths—48 and 60 inches. **CIRCLE 213**



The #9750 sliding door entertainment cabinet is one of two additions to Sliigh Furniture's Innertainment Collection. The unit features doors that slide to reveal or conceal a television and bookshelves. A hidden infrared eye allows electronic components to respond to a remote control, even when behind closed wood doors. **CIRCLE 214**

Resembling an antique chest of drawers, Yorkshire House's #9916 television chest is designed for a plasma television. The unit's hinged top opens and closes automatically as the screen emerges and retreats via remote control. The drawers are actually doors that conceal abundant space for audiovisual components and DVD storage. **CIRCLE 215**

## Designer Perspective

For the past 10 years, Chicago-based furniture and interiors designer Paul Schulman of Paul Schulman Design Ltd. has been designing and building custom home entertainment units. Along the way, he's picked up a thing or two about what today's consumers are looking for in the ever-evolving home entertainment category. Schulman recently shared some of his findings with *Furniture Style* Contributing Editor Meg Shreve.



Paul Schulman

### Furniture Style: What types of home entertainment furniture do you get the most requests for?

**Paul Schulman:** Some people want to hide their TVs; most want to hide their stereo equipment. Some want to do both. Other people want to do those things, plus display books. There's an enchanting stigma associated with televisions and books. People want to hide the things they feel guilty about and show off the things they're proud of, even though they watch TV more.

### FS: Are you fielding more requests for dedicated media rooms or areas?



**PS:** Absolutely. People's denial about watching TV is diminishing. So instead of saying, "Put it in the corner. We don't care," they're saying, "We want it in the most accessible, effective place in relationship to the room and sofa. But when company comes over, we want the room to seem like we never watch TV."

Paul Schulman designs home entertainment solutions that accommodate his clients' AV equipment.

### FS: Is home entertainment furniture getting bigger or smaller?

**PS:** Both. TVs are getting bigger and flatter and becoming part of a bigger wall unit. However, entertainment furniture is also getting smaller, as clients want it to integrate into a room and be less intrusive. I did a project where a TV was hidden behind a wall of wood panels. In a way, it was smaller because it was really discreet, but it was bigger because, when you opened the wall, half of the room opened up.