

## SCANDINAVIA ROCKS HIS WORLD

WHILE TOURING WITH THE SMITHREENS, ANDREW WILDER DISCOVERED FURNITURE. NOW IT'S HIS PRIMARY BEAT.

**C**hicago antiques dealer Andrew Wilder has always marched to a different drummer, but at one point in his life the drumming had a distinct rock beat.

At the age of 25, Wilder, never one to shy from an adventure, snatched onto an opportunity to produce the Scandinavian tour of the rock band The Smithereens, and he ran with it.

During his time on the road with the band, Wilder became fascinated with Sweden's modern furniture tradition. The intricate details and sleek lines of the 20th Century furniture drew him in, and they made a lasting impression.

Reincarnated today as the owner and mastermind behind an eight-year-old Los Angeles-based business called Svenska Möbler (meaning Swedish Furniture), Wilder is one of the only U.S. importers of Swedish antiques from the 1800 to 1900s era and he's on the speed-dial of every serious interior designer and modern furniture collector from here to Stockholm.

Barbara Barry, Alex Jordan, Steve Martin, Kristen Dunst all count on Wilder's eye, expertise and inventory. The rapid growth of his business resulted in the recent opening of Svenska Möbler Chicago and also landed Wilder in this vibrant Lakeside pied-à-terre.

The colorful 1,300-square-foot flat in a vintage North Side walk-up reflects Wilder's affinity for inventiveness and rebellion. His Swedish design heroes



Wilder found this Art Deco mirror hanging over the open living room's fireplace in Argentina. That city chose one 1940 Swedish sofa and the cool bronze sculpture on the floor is by Chacabuco of Madrid. Gammal, who painted this Swedish Möbel.

created an anti-establishment style called "Functionism," where form followed function, and contours of Scandinavian design tradition soon seemed as fresh as last week's herring.

True to their mottoes example, Wilder's modernizing style breaks just about every canon in the little of interior design. Who says blue isn't a neutral color? Who says steel and glass houses are the best house for modern art and antiquity? Who says a small apartment should be decorated in shades of beige? Not Wilder. His interpretation of the "functionalist" creed is far from Mission chilly. Wilder's modernism has a warm and colorful base.

"I kept painting and painting and painting," says Winter of the rich scenes that grace the walls of his place. "I painted every inch of it myself."

I must have tried 100 colors. I didn't know what I was looking for until I got it right." An seductive palette of blues is the baseline neutral in Wilden's living room. He thinks blue has the kind of energy that goes with both the dark and light wood tones of his furniture.

The parchment color is a surprisingly effective backdrop for both a vintage leathered wingback loveseat and some closely allied inspired chairs. "They work well together because they are so very different," says Wilder of the seating group. To create the arrangement, an ornate 1930s coffee table by the masterful (now defunct) Swedish carpenter Gustaf Lindström, is perched down in the center of this unusual grouping. The table is constructed of elm and Roosevelt wood and inlaid with an intricate map of the world, each continent represented by an allegorical female figure—Asia, a grizzly; North America, a shaggy Native American woman. "It has 13 different woods," Wilder marvels.

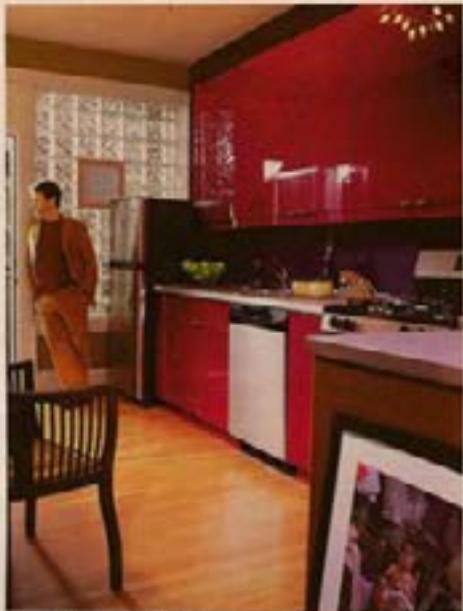
That title might be a pretty good metaphor for the way Wilder lives his fast-paced, globe-trotting life. Most recently, he's been jetting back and forth to Argentina to pursue a new and ordinary passion for his obsession, Kamen as Americano Functional, the mostly domestic furniture Wilder is collecting from a host of exotic shapes fashioned from exotic tropical hardwoods and sleek glass. These visiting 1960s and '70s pieces were languishing in obscurity until Wilder came to the rescue and became the only American dealer to survive the materialist zombism.

"It's been a learning process," says Weller of his expanding business. "There was a big learning curve." That's also the way he feels aboutdecorating his Midwest home. "It was totally experimental."

"As for the wild patches rug, while some might balk at adding it to a room already thrashing with color, Wilder says it was actually an inspiration—showing him how disparate colors can work together. The master bedroom is the only space in the apartment, where things chromatically calm down, "I wanted an 'extinct' look," Wilder says. "I find that seasons a tranquility ends there, however. On a trip to Korea, some bright red tulipom curtains. 'I had to do it,' he said, but I never liked it. It was the last thing installed, a summertime. □"

Guardsman Michael Gourley Andrew Miller on his way to kitchen. A 1990 photograph used in court proceedings, shown in the *West Point* exhibit.

Lisa Congdon uses writing for pleasure, meaningful work, and creative living.



**KNOWN AS AMERICANO FUNCIONAL,  
THE SOUTH AMERICAN FURNITURE  
WILDER IS COLLECTING FAVORS  
BIOMORPHIC SHAPES FASHIONED FROM  
EXOTIC TROPICAL HARDWOODS  
AND SLEEK GLASS.**

Mid-century glamour is evoked in the guest room with a 1950s house-culture photograph by late-bohemian photographer Mark Shaw, and a vintage Argentine leather chaise longue. Wilder says that his wall colors assign an individual "Voluptuous Frequency" to each space—in ingenious ways to transform separate rooms in an apartment with an open-plan living area.

