

Chicago
magazine

(Inspired Spaces)
River West Highland Park

HOME

SUMMER 2004

WHAT'S
MODERN
NOW

Chic Street:
Fulton Market

Haute
Green Design

Bold and
Beautiful:
Chairs
You'll Love



Nate Berkus:
Man of Style

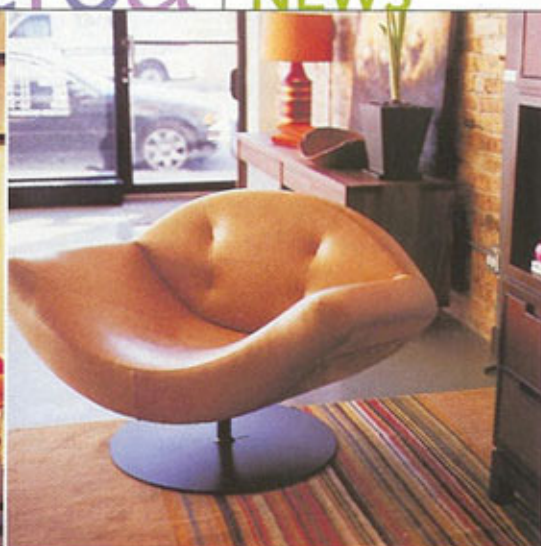
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Style to Go: Bodacious Abode

LONGTIME FRIENDS JASON BALLEW and Darrick Draper learned the home furnishings ropes at some of the city's best-loved stores (Ballew worked at Space Chicago, Draper at Graystone Home) before channeling their talent into **Abode** (1904 W. North Ave., 773-227-6400; www.abodechicago.com), which opened in December.

A good move, since the buzz around their new venture is growing louder by the day. As Ballew explains it, "We carry contemporary furniture that's also comfortable. Not many people do that."

But he's being modest. The collection is an exciting balance of offbeat and familiar, glamorous and inviting. Most pieces are from emerging companies and are difficult—sometimes impossible—to find anywhere else in Chicago. Like the look but not sure how to achieve it on your own? The pair also offers full design services.



Draper and Ballew sit on a sofa of their own design. Abode abounds with colorful contemporary pieces, including (clockwise from left) Ori pendant lamps from Nüf Design, Molteni Italian bedding, and the Espasso Galvota chair.

(OPENINGS)

The moderately priced modernist furniture from the popular catalog merchant **Design Within Reach** (www.dwr.com) is finally within arm's length of Chicagoans. The first area store opened on

February 21 (1574 N. Kingsbury St., 312-482-8661) and the second opens in May at the Tree Studios building on the corner of State and Ohio streets. ★★★ Chicagoans with vacation homes in Harbor Country no longer need to depend on the local Lowe's for decorating help.

Acclaimed Chicago designer **Susan Fredman** is bringing big-city design to the area with her new, full-service **Interior Design Resource Center** (15998 Red Arrow Hwy., Union Pier, Mich., 269-469-9640). Featuring accessories from Chicago's Sawbridge Studios, the center offers everything from outdoor kitchen vignettes to door hardware. Members of Fredman's Chicagoland staff, many of whom have second homes in the area, will be on hand to help, and Fredman (who also has a home nearby) plans to stop in at least once a week.

Voluptuous Vintage: Svenska Möbler

PRODUCED IN LIMITED QUANTITY FOR THE SWEDISH MARKET and never exported when it was manufactured, early 20th-century modernist furniture is extremely scarce in the United States. In fact, until recently, Andrew Wilder's **Svenska Möbler** furniture store in Los Angeles was one of the few sources. But following the enthusiastic response his collection received in recent years at The Modernism Show in Winnetka and at the Chicago Antiques Fair, Wilder decided to open a store in Chicago (516 N. Wells St., 312-595-9320; www.svenskamobler.com). The pieces he sells, each unique and impeccably restored, would raise the style quotient of any bungalow, downtown high-rise, or loft—they encompass Swedish Art Deco, Swedish Functionalism, Biedermeier Revival, and Art Moderne designs.



PHOTOGRAPHY: TOP KATRINA WITTKAMP