



Springs, and New York City. "The great thing is, we know where to look," Steve says. "But we usually don't know what it is we're looking for until we see it."

One piece that shines in Frank and Steve's home is a hickory outhouse door they found in a Saugatuck, Michigan, antiques mall. Though certain they wanted the 1800s piece, they didn't know—as they strapped it to the top of their car—that it would end up as art on a dining room wall. "It's that element of surprise that we always strive for," Frank says. Paintings that hang together collage-style in the living room are another serendipitous find. At a Chicago resale shop, the couple scooped them all up in one purchase.

But not everything here is happenstance. To gracefully tie together diverse living room furnishings, Steve, an interior designer, commissioned several custom pieces, including sconces, side tables, and a burl cabinet. He also designed lush chocolate velvet benches used instead of side chairs at the rough-hewn dining room table.

To create casual space in this somewhat formal condominium, the couple gutted the original kitchen and maid's quarters. By reconfiguring, Frank and Steve got an airy kitchen that opens to a family room, a cozy media room, and a guest bath. The family room, with its red velvet sofa, chocolate brown walls, and boldly graphic rug, is by far the loudest room in this otherwise quiet house. "It's about as bold as we go," Frank says, smiling.

RESOURCES ON PAGE 112