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Out of the gallery and into the living room:
art-filled homes that inspire

WIDGET SCULPTURE

PENCIL SCULPTURE

APRIL 2012 \$4.99



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Find out which pieces gallery owner Francis Mill keeps for himself in his San Francisco home, p. 112.

PENCIL SCULPTURE

the ART of the MATTER



If your main concern is whether or not a piece of art is going to match your sofa, stop worrying and try wallpaper instead. From a gallerist whose loft is an ever-changing exhibition to a fashion designer who collects works that will make you blush, the following homeowners know that art is not just another design accessory.

ARTISTIC UTILITARIANISM

When Francis Mill decided to create a better passage from the living room to the kitchen, he turned to artist Conrad Marca-Relli for inspiration. Drawing on the artist's work with sections of steel plate, Mill designed a pivot door with a similar geometry and scale. Here, he peruses one of his many art books.

LEFT: "I have experienced art as an artist, as an art teacher and as a gallery owner," says Mill. On display in his living room is his own work that marries Japanese phrases and images on simple wooden blocks.

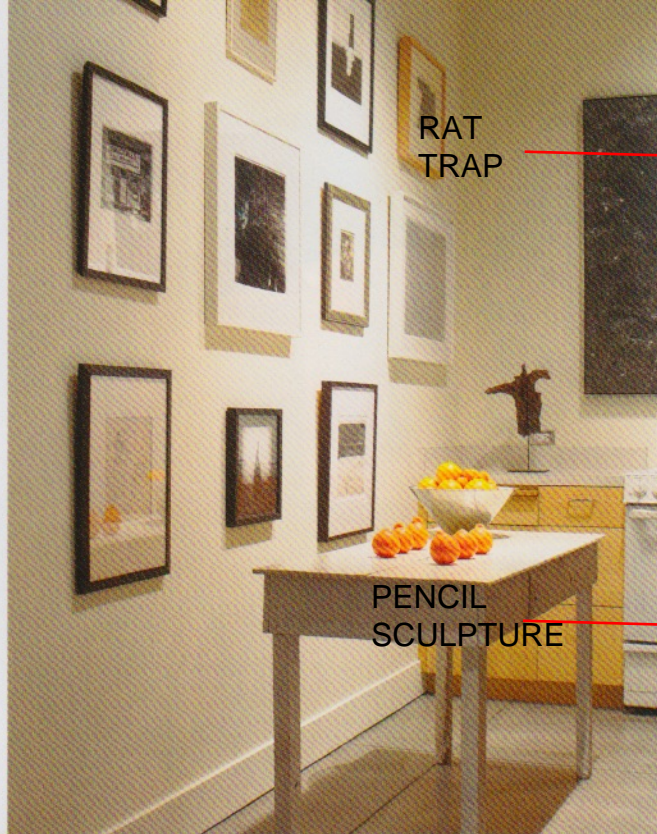


KITCHEN CREATIONS

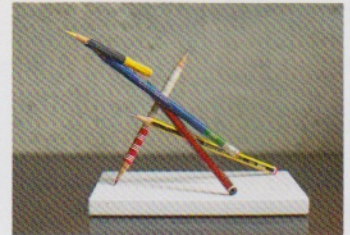
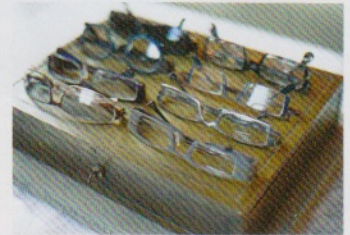
RIGHT: A kitchen isn't often a place chosen to display art collections, but because Mill's kitchen has no windows, and he rarely cooks, he found it the perfect spot for hanging works on paper that could be faded by sunlight. He uses one wall for an ever-changing composition of smaller pieces.

A COLLECTOR'S EYE

FROM TOP FAR RIGHT: A gold-colored rat trap sculpture by Sonoma artist Bob Van Breda pairs a humble and a luxe aesthetic in one work; Mill collects eyeglasses in addition to art. "As a child, I was teased because of my glasses and because I liked art," he says. "Now I appreciate how they complete a person's look;" another sculpture by Van Breda makes fine art out of simple colored pencils. "Another sculpture by Van Breda makes fine art out of simple colored pencils."



RAT TRAP



PENCIL SCULPTURE



WIDGET

PENCIL SCULPTURE

THE INVISIBLE HAND

The living room holds a tabletop sculpture by Van Breda, a small statue by an unidentified naïve artist and a bold painting by Emerson Woelffer. "My collection is made up of 20th-century artists whose works reflect the effort it took to make them," he says. "For me, the process of making the art is as important as the artwork itself. When you see what goes into a work of art and nothing is hidden, you appreciate it to the core."

CORNER OFFICE

The desk is crafted from sheet metal. It has one wide leg and the other side is bolted to the wall. Also on the walls are paintings by David Park, a Bay Area artist who worked until his last breath. "Both the colorful and the black-and-white pieces were completed when Park was on his deathbed," says Mill. "He asked his family to bring him paper and he would paint—that's how strong his need to create was." A Robert Motherwell collage hangs over the desk, and a Brian Wall sculpture sits atop it.



PENCIL SCULPTURE

DESIGN IN THE ROUGH

The condo's previous owners had tried to smooth and polish areas where the concrete walls were still rough. Mill took a different approach. "I loved the rough-hewn nature of spots where concrete walls had been removed by blasting them with dynamite," he says. "Instead of trying to smooth it, I had it chiseled out to make it even rougher and more cavelike. I love the concrete: It's an honest material, and it's what was used in this building. I don't want to make any attempt to hide or disguise it." The texture is complemented by a black-and-white Ruth Wall painting and a towering sculpture by Richard Faralla.

