

# HOME & GARDEN

## Bidder up! Showhouse goodies can be yours

By Janet Cawley  
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### GREAT FINDS

## Doing the eBay shuffle

From their house to showhouse to your house — that will be the path traveled by the furnishings you see in the rooms here. After former lives in homes around the world, these sofas, lamps, chairs, clocks and more were then offered on eBay, bought by eight young designers. Now, they're putting punch into the four-story home in Manhattan that is the 2nd annual eBay Showhouse. Next stop for these "previously owned" beauties? Back on the eBay auction block.

**NEW YORK** — If you've ever thought a life-sized lobster carved from bone would be the perfect addition for your bedroom, or lusted after framed needlework from Tashkent, Uzbekistan, or figured a couch from the Enron offices would look great in your living room — well, just turn on your computer.

The 2nd annual eBay Showhouse, open to the public from Saturday to June 19, features four floors of rooms decorated by eight New York designers who bought virtually everything they used on eBay. And here's the gimmick: Each item will be auctioned off once again on that Web site. All proceeds will benefit The Alpha Workshops, a New York design studio where artists living with HIV train and work.

What's more, out-of-towners needn't feel left out. A virtual tour of the house is available at [www.ebay.com/showhouse](http://www.ebay.com/showhouse), with bidding on the furnishings running from Thursday to June 19.

The young designers — Isabelle Bosquet, Sheila Bridges, Shawn Henderson, Thomas Jayne, Lulu deKwiatkowski, David Netto, Katie Ridder and Matthew Patrick Smyth — have come up with an array of rooms that reflect their cutting-edge sensibilities and ingenuity. The ground rules: They had seven weeks to acquire furnishings from eBay and have them delivered (no small feat when some came from as far away as Uzbekistan), all within a budget based on the size and function of their rooms. Smyth, who designed the library, had the biggest budget (\$22,000) because his plans included high-end electronic equipment. Bosquet, who was in charge of the patio, had the lowest (\$8,250). In all, some 460 items were purchased for less than \$110,000.

And what treasures did they come up with — that you can now re-purchase?

In the living room created by Thomas Jayne, a scholar of interior design with his own New York firm, is a more traditional sofa upholstered in cheery, geranium-colored fabric. Opposite that are carved Chinese chairs with cushions made from the same material, and on the wall is a huge collage of paper, photographs and fabric.

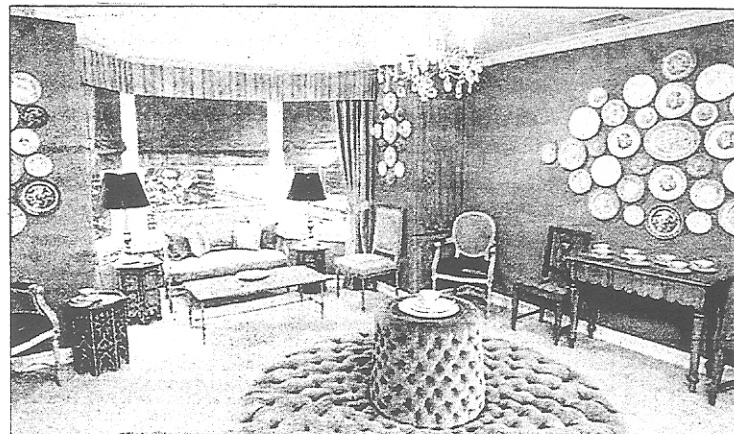
One flight up, Sheila Bridges has devised a dining room that defies all expectations. In the middle is a large, slate-colored pouf ottoman. Plates from around the world are attached with Velcro to the walls. "I wanted the focus of the room to be on the plates, not on a table," says Bridges, who owns her own New York design firm and redecorated former President Bill Clinton's Harlem offices. (She also hosts "Designer Living" on The Fine Living Network). "You can dine without a table, you just need a place to sit and a plate."

So the idea is you walk in, pluck a plate from the wall, and plunk yourself down on the ottoman.

On the same floor, Shawn Henderson's breakfast room is dominated by a piece of furniture with a headline-making past: a comfy-looking camelback mauve couch from Enron's Texas corporate offices. "I just stumbled across it," says Henderson, known for his clean lines and contemporary designs and considered a rising star in the home decorating field. (Like the others, he has his own firm in New York). "I bought it [for \$800] from a guy in Houston who bought out a lot of their office furniture. Also in the room: a game table with a tortoiseshell underside and slip-covered end tables.

The home's two top floors showcase Lulu deKwiatkowski's master bedroom, with a carved Chinese headboard for the bed and a Mies reproduction white leather bench; David Netto's nursery with dollhouse, rocking chair, framed botanical prints and grassy green carpet; Katie Ridder's collector's room with the bone lobster from Shanghai, an impressive bird's nest from Seattle, tiles from the Netherlands and France and fabrics from Uzbekistan; Bosquet's romantic patio which features a wire table, chairs and settee from France and four life-size angels; and the library by Matthew Patrick Smyth, which combines a plasma TV and up-to-the-minute computer with busts of George Washington and Thomas Jefferson opposite two made-to-fit bookcases (he found the cabinet maker on eBay) crammed with potboilers to classics.

*The eBay Showhouse, 148 E. 63rd St., New York, is open Saturday to June 19. Hours: 11a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Cost: \$25 at the door or at [www.ebay.com/showhousetickets](http://www.ebay.com/showhousetickets) or by calling 212-594-7320. A behind-the-scenes look at the making of the showhouse will be featured on the "Point, Click, Design" television show, which premieres on A&E at 6 p.m. Sunday.*



Photos by Carrington Weems

Sheila Bridges used Velcro to adhere these plates (\$16 for a set of eight ironstone blue-and-white plates to \$90 for a set of four Churchill red willow dishes) to the walls of her dining room.