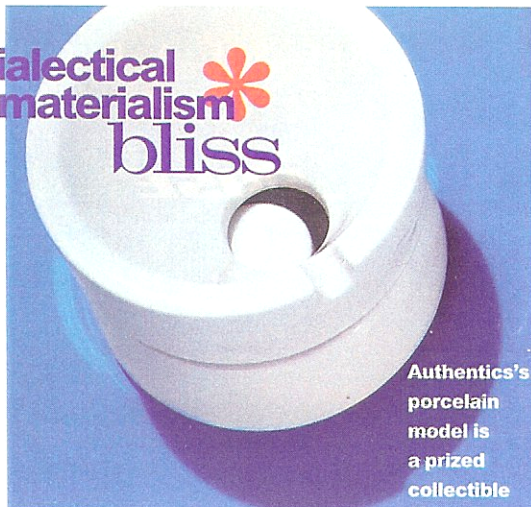
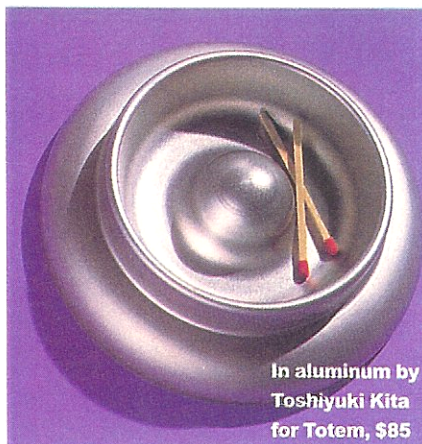


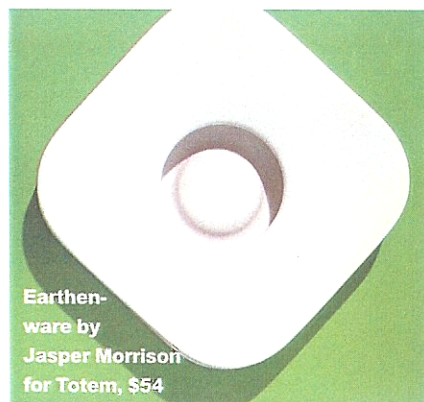
dialectical
materialism
bliss



Authentic's
porcelain
model is
a prized
collectible



In aluminum by
Toshiyuki Kita
for Totem, \$85



Earthen-
ware by
Jasper Morrison
for Totem, \$54



Ceramic stackables from
Cappellini, \$96 each

the new ashtray etiquette

WHAT Ashtrays

WHY NOW? Because anti-tobacco forces have made home the last refuge for smokers. Because hot designers like Jasper Morrison, Troy Halterman, and Hansjerg Maier-Aichen of Authentic's are designing them. Because a coffee table still feels bare without one.

LIGHTING UP In the '40s, '50s, and '60s, ashtrays were ubiquitous. "Almost everyone had them in almost every room of the house, including the bathrooms," says Nancy Wanvig, author of *Collector's Guide to Ashtrays* (Collector Books). "People smoked everywhere—in business offices, doctors' offices, and high school offices."

CLEAN-AIR ACT "In the old days, it was polite to allow your friends to smoke. Nowadays it's polite to guarantee your friends a smoke-free environment," says New York interior designer Stephanie Stokes, who gives clients brass "no-smoking" signs for Christmas and has one prominently outside her apartment door. Manners expert Letitia Baldrige still thinks that the ashtray can be a social necessity. "If somebody is an addict, and you love them, you produce an ashtray."

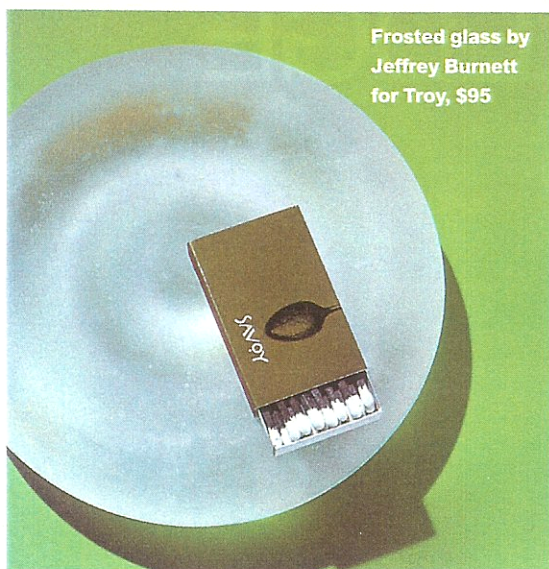
WHERE THERE'S SMOKE Alexa Hampton set off more sparks than a Ronson Lighter when she included ashtrays and cigarettes in her 1999 Kips Bay Decorator Show House room. "I was asked to take the cigarettes away because it offended people," says Hampton. Now she accommodates smokers by stealth, using "non-ashtray" ashtrays. "If it's a pretty plate, people aren't quite sure what it's for, so it's less offensive."

HARD PACK "I find fancy, fragile, overly decorated objects such as shallow glass or china plates and saucers totally inappropriate," Albert Hadley, the dean of American decorating, declares. "I like receptacles that have a reasonable width and depth, such as 'real' ashtrays of ceramic, metal, or glass."

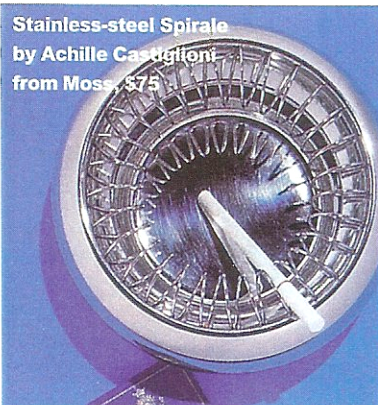
YOU'VE COME A LONG WAY, BABY "It's weird to encourage people to smoke," says Miami architect Alison Spear. "There is an old-fashioned elegance about ashtrays—I'm not into it."

HOT GOODS Taboo or not, ashtrays are a staple of many trendy home-furnishing stores: New York's Troy, Moss, and Cappellini Modern Age carry models created by designers and architects. "Ashtrays are a design element," says Gail Schultz of Totem Design Group, who sells interpretations by Marc Newson and Toshiyuki Kita to smokers and nonsmokers. "People consider them accessories for the table."

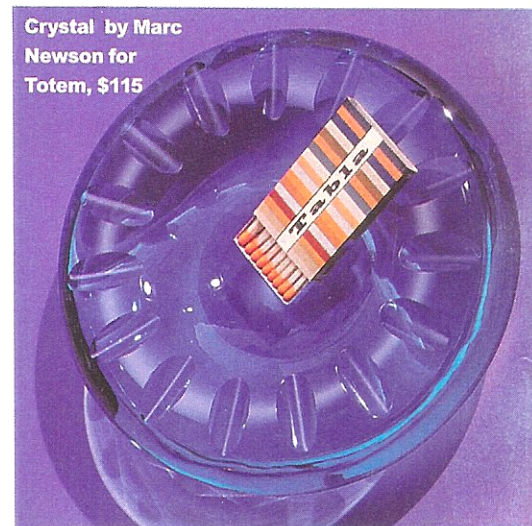
SMOKE SIGNALS "An ashtray in a house is not necessarily an invitation to smoke," says New York interior designer Sheila Bridges. "Just as a bed in a house isn't an invitation for someone to spend the night." —LYGEIA GRACE



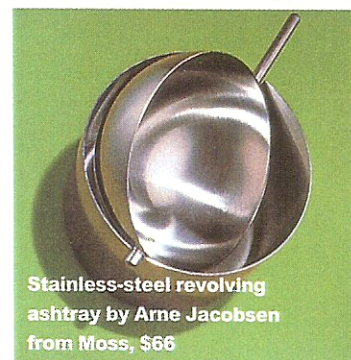
Frosted glass by
Jeffrey Burnett
for Troy, \$95



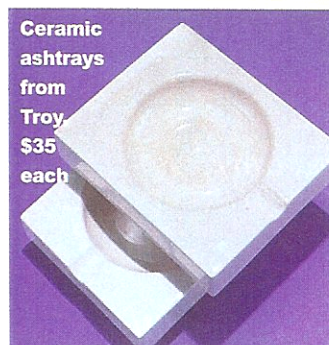
Stainless-steel Spirale
by Achille Castiglioni
from Moss, \$75



Crystal by Marc
Newson for
Totem, \$115



Stainless-steel revolving
ashtray by Arne Jacobsen
from Moss, \$66



Ceramic
ashtrays
from
Troy
\$35
each

JOHN LAWTON