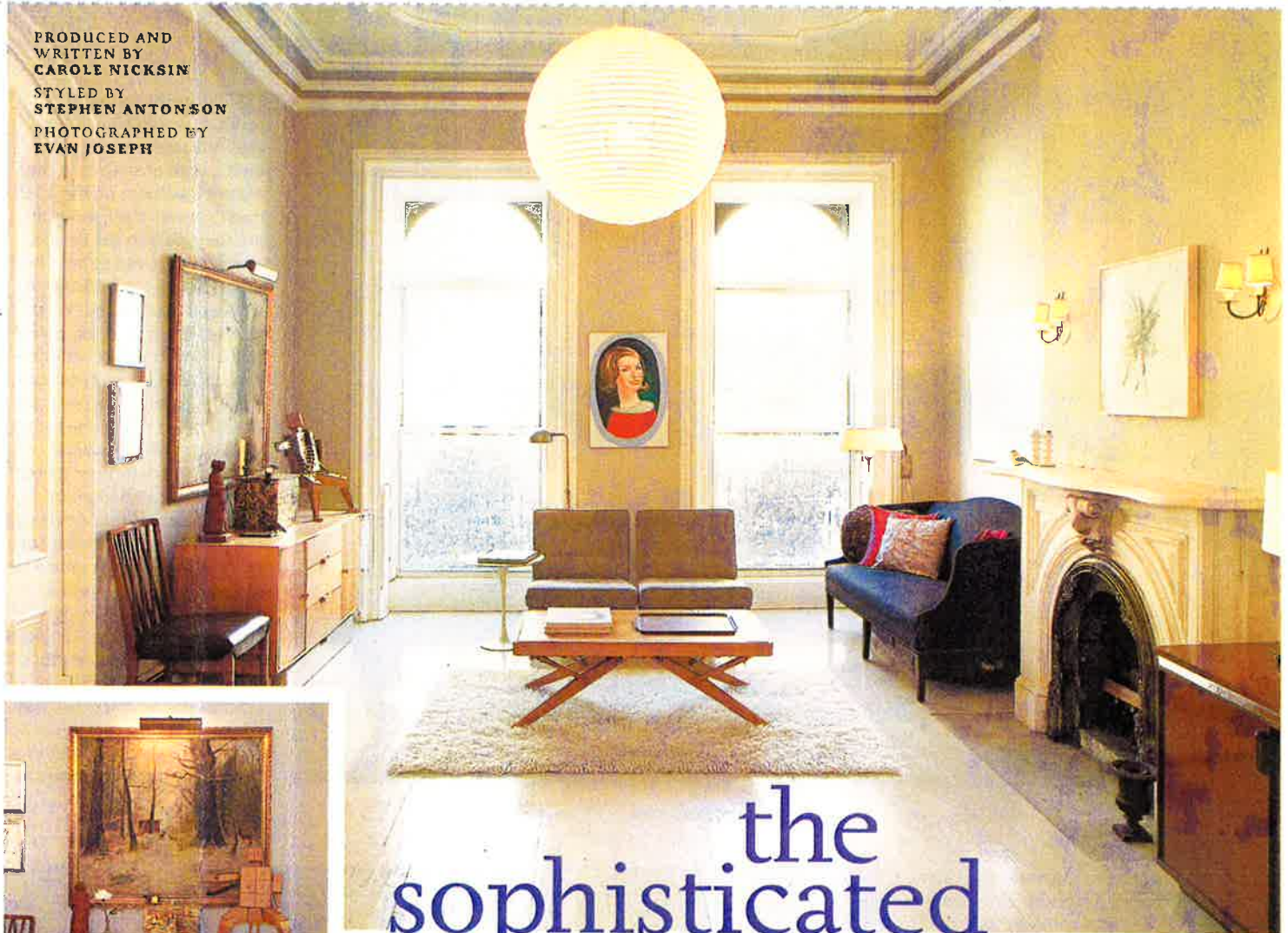


PRODUCED AND
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the sophisticated scavenger

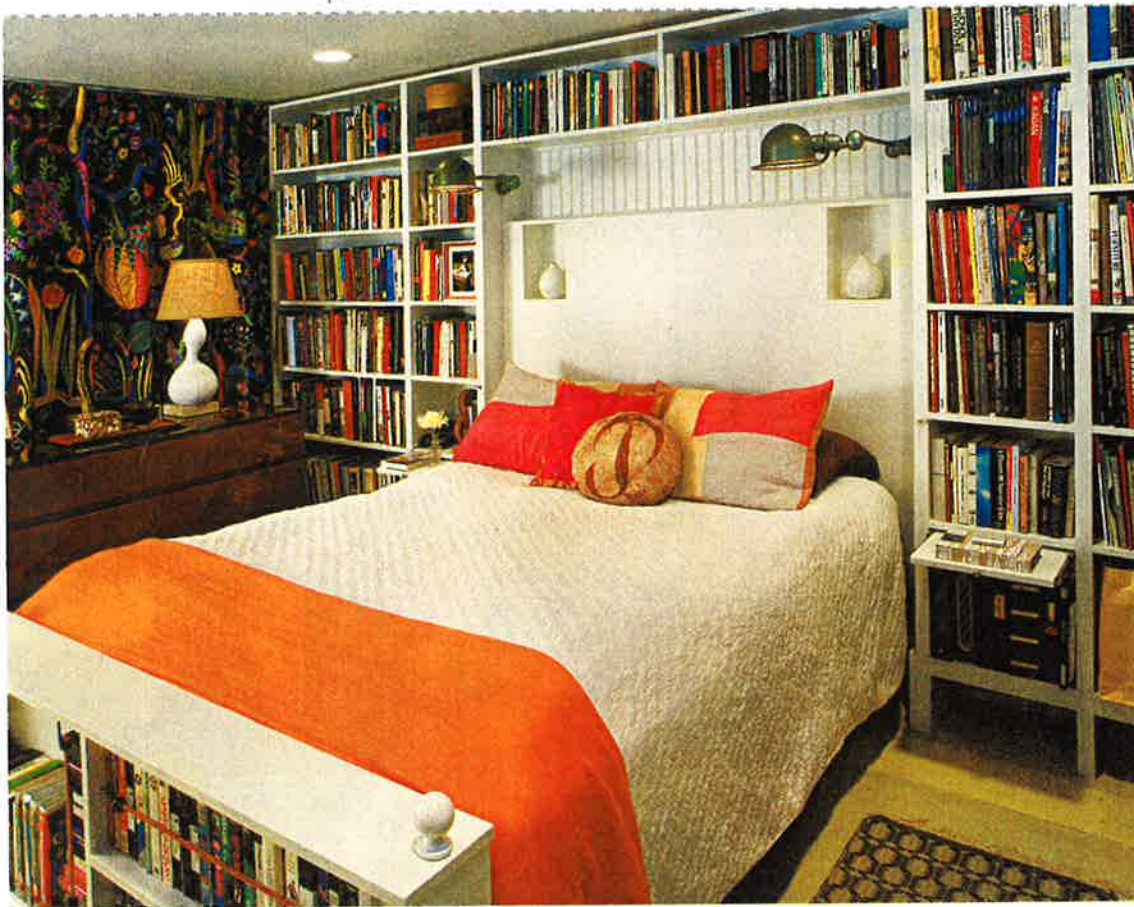
castoffs get a new life
in this resourceful artist's home



TOP To provide a neutral backdrop for this eclectic mix of furnishings, homeowner Stephen Antonson painted the floors of the apartment's main level light gray. "It took three tries to get the color right," he says, "but everything looks good on it." **ABOVE** The repetition of square and rectangular shapes creates a rhythm that unifies a grouping of objects—an Italian sculpture made of hinged boxes and a small decoupage chest discovered in a Paris flea market—with the living room console on which they are displayed.

STEPHEN ANTONSON AND HIS WIFE, Kathleen Hackett, have an uncanny ability to see the potential in a worn and torn surface—of a sofa, a lamp, or even an entire apartment. "Both of us love orphaned objects. Most everything we have here came from flea markets or junk shops," says Antonson, a sculptor and fine artist who also works as a stylist for photo shoots. The couple's 1,050-square-foot duplex in Brooklyn, New York, is filled with rescued furnishings of various vintages that Antonson rehabilitated. What isn't a rejuvenated relic is most likely something Antonson designed or renovated himself, such as his residence's kitchen and bathrooms. Now, with the home finally complete, Antonson isn't sitting back and enjoying his creation—he's itching to move: "We want something with a little more space," he explains. "What can I say? I like having a project."

DECORATING



LEFT "If we had another room, it would be a library," says Antonson. Instead, he built a wall of shelves in the master bedroom on the apartment's lower level, integrating the bed into the design. Two niches, sized to hold bud vases, adorn the headboard, adding a flourish that keeps the unit from seeming purely utilitarian. The chest of drawers is one of a pair Antonson found in a junk shop near his Brooklyn art studio; he covered both with oxblood-colored Dutch lacquer paint, whose saturated pigment results in a rich hue. On top of the chest is a lamp Antonson created by casting a gourd in plaster. A curtain, made of a fabric designed by Joseph Frank, adds a bold color statement to the room and provides privacy for son Finn, who sleeps on the other side. It's hung from a ceiling track and can be opened to let in light from the front windows.

RIGHT In the main-level bathroom, Antonson removed the existing bathtub, sink vanity, and some of the Sheetrock, revealing a brick support wall.

"The room is only five by eight feet, and I didn't want it to be a box with no character," he says. A claw-foot tub was on his wife's wish list, so when he spotted one left on the curb for removal, he enlisted his brother to help bring it home. "It had two coats of white paint on the outside so I had to strip it," he recalls, "but at least it didn't need to be reglazed." He updated the piece by painting its sides lime green and pairing it with a faucet intended for a utility sink. To further spruce up the space, he added accessories and artwork that reflect a water theme. The trash can is the inner liner of an old bait bucket.

