

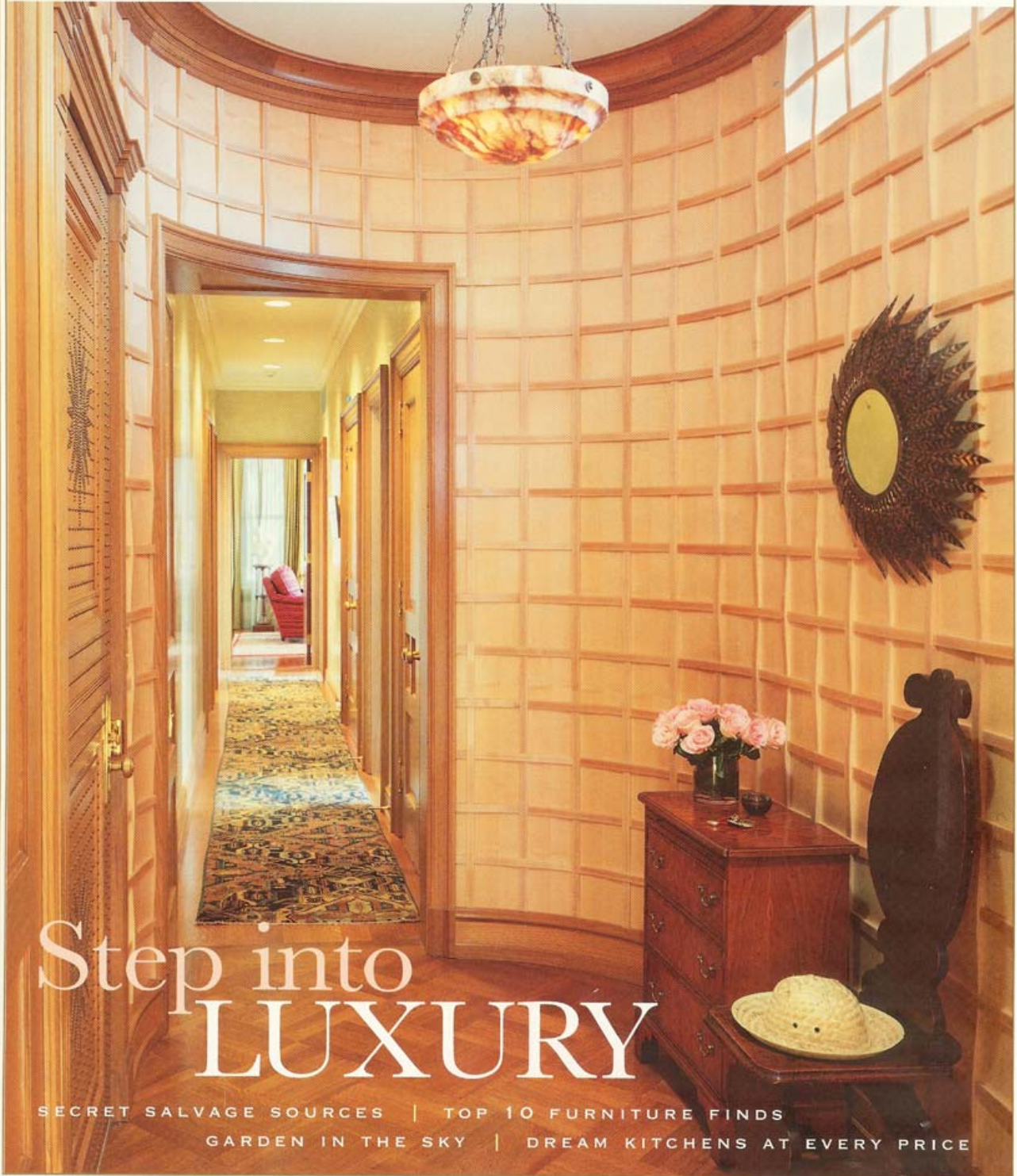
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CITY CHIC BY JOSEPH STABILITO

New York, New York

With the design world at your fingertips, you'd think creating your own 200-square-foot loft kitchen would be a snap. But Joseph Stabilito, owner of the Manhattan-based firm Joseph Stabilito Interior Design, can tell you from experience that's not always the case.

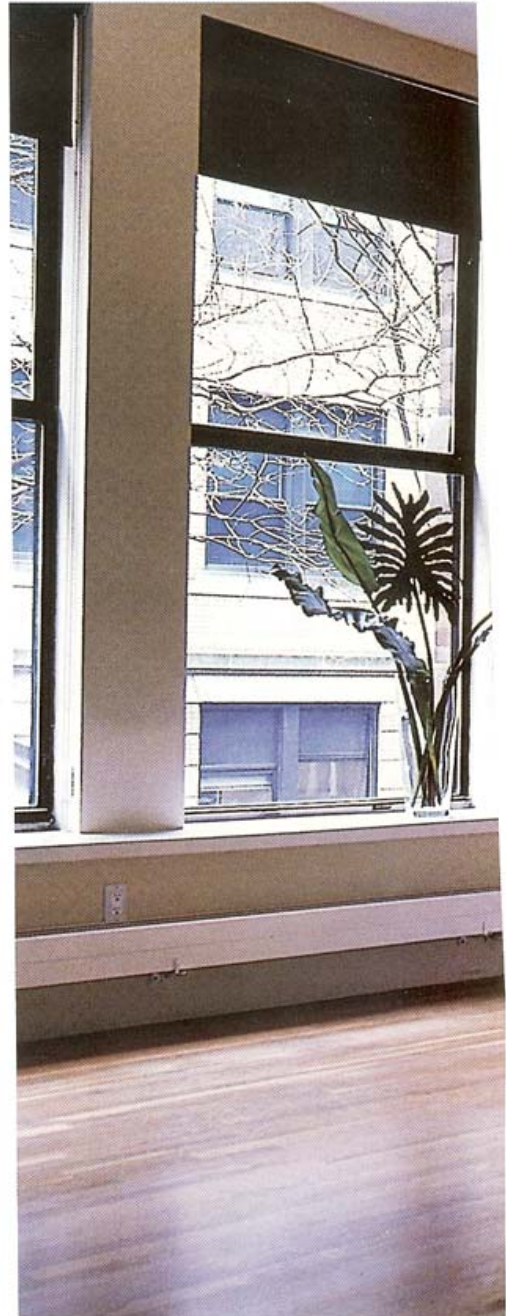
"It's always harder designing for yourself," he says. "When you work with a client, you can be emotionally detached, but when you become the client, you stress over the same choices homeowners do."

Given free rein on all design decisions by his life partner, Toby Butterfield, for their Bleecker Street space in NoHo, Stabilito contemplated whether to go with some of the kitchen trends he had been implementing for his clients. After much consideration, he opted against them. He passed on, for instance, a refrigerator with glass enclosures because the interior of his fridge "can often look like a nightmare." And though it's a very tailored—and popular—look, he decided not to camouflage his appliances in paneling.

So instead of trendy, he went for timeless. High-end stainless-steel appliances from GE, Dacor and Bosch complement the warm tones of the wenge cabinets and glass mosaic tile backsplash. A Calcutta marble island provides room to prepare and entertain with its cooktop, wine fridge and accompanying modern bar stools from Knoll Studio.

Stabilito says he is happy with the results, and his deliberation on the design gave him new perspective on his professional life.

"You worry about having to live with your decisions," he notes. "So it brought me a greater depth of understanding of what it's like for my clients." ▣





A timeless, not trendy, design was the goal for this kitchen.

DESIGN DETAILS

■ The loft kitchen is warm, comfortable—and as hip as the city it's in. Stabilito's choice of lighting helps fashion the look. Funky pendants shine above the island, while recessed lighting illuminates its Plexiglas front, as well as the interior of the cabinets and the backsplash. The designer even thought to install an individual dimmer for each light source, allowing him to create the perfect mood for every occasion.