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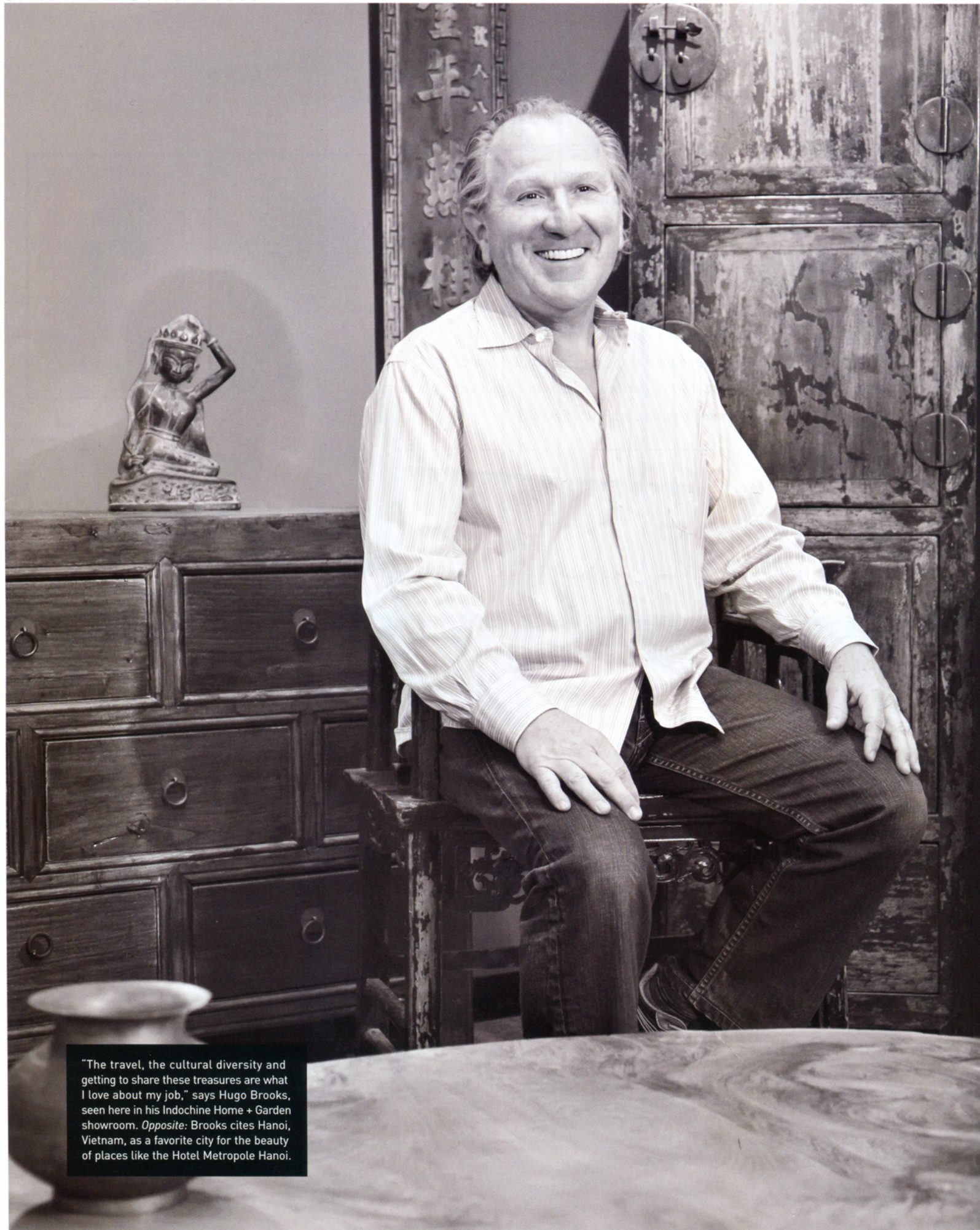
GOLD LIST EDITION



luxe. | *style makers*

design dialogue.

INTIMATE CONVERSATIONS WITH A FURNITURE DESIGNER WHO IS INSPIRED BY NATURE, A DYNAMIC MUSEUM DIRECTOR, AND AN IMPORTER KNOWLEDGEABLE IN ASIAN ANTIQUES.



"The travel, the cultural diversity and getting to share these treasures are what I love about my job," says Hugo Brooks, seen here in his Indochine Home + Garden showroom. *Opposite:* Brooks cites Hanoi, Vietnam, as a favorite city for the beauty of places like the Hotel Metropole Hanoi.

Asian antiques importer Hugo Brooks was on a recent trip to Thailand when a pair of antiques vendors who were retiring handed him the keys to their private warehouses. "That was probably the fastest I've filled up a cargo crate in a while," says Brooks, who has been making forays to the Far East for nearly two decades to handpick the wares he sells at his Boulder shop, Indochine Home + Garden. What started with a container of Burmese and Thai antiques has grown to include an array of items from other exotic locales—including Dutch colonial pieces from Indonesia, and teak and lychee wood furnishings from Bali, as well as the Tibetan treasures and Mongolian furniture he stocks up on in Beijing. Stateside, Brooks reimagines these traditional pieces, transforming hand-painted doors into headboards and rain drums into side tables. "A few antique pieces will soften and complement a modern interior," Brooks says of his diverse collection. "They provide a nice balance to the hard lines, stone finishes and sleek fixtures of today's homes." *indochinehomeimport.com; 303.444.7734*

A Dutch colonial classic, this lady's vanity seat crafted from the finest Balinese teakwood is among the many Far Eastern gems found at Indochine Home + Garden.



ASIAN INFLUENCE

HUGO BROOKS



I BECAME INTERESTED IN ASIAN IMPORTS WHEN...

At Post University I attended the self-study, vagabond graduate program in Europe and Asia for six years. During that magical time, I developed an appreciation for Asian thought, art and culture.

WORK APPROACH:

I love to shop. I am constantly searching out new sources of the practical, useful, unusual, uplifting, and outrageous. My imports are often re-purposed so as to be more functional for the Western lifestyle.

WHAT DO YOU COLLECT?

I have a collection of about 50 small Laotian devotional carvings done by individual devotees as part of their studies.

FAVORITE CITY:

Hanoi, Vietnam. It's a clean city of intense energy, beauty, elegant style, and great food.

WHAT'S INSPIRING YOU NOW?

Wood. There are so many gorgeous wood types, especially in the Indonesian islands.

MOST PEOPLE DON'T KNOW:

I grew up on a chicken farm in southern New Jersey.