

house beautiful

DECORATING DIRECTIONS

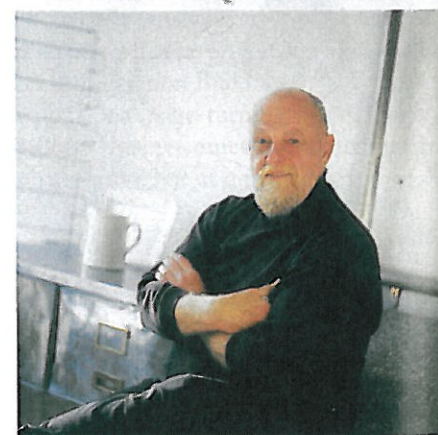
OUR 1995 SHOWHOUSE WINNERS REVEAL THE LATEST LOOKS

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OCTOBER 1995 \$2.95





STORE FRONT

Talking shop

Part store, part shrine to California designer John Dickinson, a San Francisco gallery is as informative as it is stylish

BY TESSA SOUTER

The tiny store of antiques dealer Lawrence Maloney is a memorial to California designer John Dickinson. Here one can see the famous tin-skirted tables and animal-leg chairs that made Dickinson the darling of sixties and seventies style aficionados, from art patron Frances Bowes to the Magnin family of department store fame. "They were all made for individual clients," says Maloney. "Most of these things will never be reproduced."

Dickinson's witty designs set the tone for the by-appointment shop, but there

are also inspired finds, like the huge turn-of-the-century pine cabinet from an Irish convent, interspersed with pieces by Maloney and Jean Michel Frank. But perhaps the best thing about the store is Maloney himself. Every piece of furniture has a story attached to it, and Maloney, who lived with Dickinson, knows them all. "People sometimes say about the bed John designed for Ralph Du Casse, 'I could make that—it's only plumbing pipe!' but I knew how much work John put into it," he says. ■

Dickinson's tin-skirted table (ABOVE LEFT), \$4,500, and animal-leg chair are signature pieces. FROM TOP: Dickinson's brass tree for a Valentino boutique. A Dickinson chest in white parchment; leather desk with transparent feet is by Jean Michel Frank. Dickinson's bed for painter Ralph Du Casse. Shopkeeper and raconteur Lawrence Maloney.

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