

# Learning from Men

by Anita Creamer Lund, with photo by Larry Dockery

*Honestly now . . . do you think all bachelors' pads resemble disaster areas? Well, lust along with us through Interior Designer (ASID) Joseph Minton's small apartment retreat . . . and learn how to perk up your own place, and make the woman who lives there the snug, smug one who also can bring off these smart subtleties . . .*

Joseph Minton wanted his small treetop apartment to be a quiet refuge, a private and comfortable retreat filled with his favorite collectibles.

"I wanted to play up my colorful accessories and rugs more than the apartment," he says. "Colorful walls, of course, do show these things up very well, but I just felt like going with neutral shades."

Minton stripped away the apartment's mundane, mass appeal trappings, replacing them with simple yet uncommon touches.

For example, he paneled the walls of the elongated sitting/dining room with corrugated cardboard, which he likes for its ribbed texture and earthy color; and he

painted the woodwork to match. In the bedroom and dressing room, Minton chose cream cotton as a wall covering, again for its color and texture. Continuing to refurbish the basic shell, he stripped away that ubiquitous symbol of modern apartment life, wall-to-wall shag carpeting, and replaced it with sisal.

"I wanted a natural background for all my antique rugs," says Minton. "And I've found these neutral tones really bring out the bright colors."

As the final touches on the apartment's backdrop, he replaced all the curtains with wooden slat blinds; mirrored the sitting room's long wall to reflect the daylight from the windows on the opposite side, and open up the narrow space.

He painted the ceilings the color of the sky on a somber, overcast day.

"This apartment is a complete mixture of what I like best, antiques displayed on a simple background," he says.

But despite layering these bright antique touches on the canvas, Minton says his primary concern was the creation not of a showplace for antiques, but of a comfortable, livable habitat, a background for his life and interests.

"My philosophy is that each room must actually be and look comfortable," he says. "Each room must be used, and it must suit the person living there." □

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Joseph Minton, ASID