

Condo Living

P SECTION » TORONTO STAR « SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, 2006 ★ thestar.com

ANTIQUES

ON THE RISE

Tunstall pottery is one of the hot new collectibles these days, says John Sewell. P7



DECOR

TOUCH OF GLASS

Hand-blown glass art is proving to be a popular investment, says Arlene Bynon. P5



MODELS

OASIS OF CALM

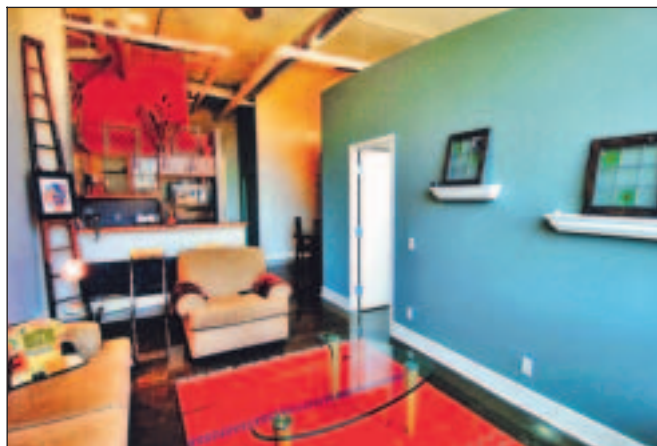
The east lofts, located in the Distillery District, appeal to today's young urbanites. P6



PAINT PANACHE | Lawyer's stark loft comes alive in dramatic fashion

Colourful conversion

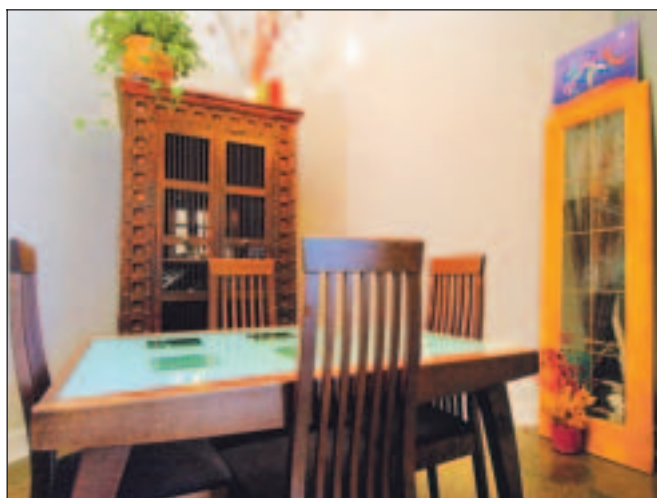
Choosing loft was straightforward, picking furnishings was painless, but then decorating panic set in. Colour consultant helped allay loft buyer's fears and create a memorable space, *writes Tracy Hanes*



Neutral furnishings in modern style help balance the burst of colour in Nabigon's narrow suite in Forest Hill Lofts.



Nabigon's bedroom, which resembles an open box, exudes masculine style in medium taupe with cranberry closet doors.



The dining room is in a quieter, warm taupe and boasts an armoire made from recycled teak and a salvaged French door.

For a guy who's usually pretty decisive, Clem Nabigon was terrified about making the wrong choice.

After years of living in rooming houses and basement apartments so he could save up for a down payment on a condo, Nabigon wasted little time making a decision when he was finally ready to buy.

He was one of the first purchasers at Forest Hill Lofts when it opened in March 2002 near Dufferin St. and Eglinton Ave. The 750-square-foot, two-bedroom-with-den suite, which he purchased for \$182,000, is one of 130 units in a four-storey building that used to be the Patton and Baldwin knitting mill.

"It was pretty much a spontaneous purchase. I wanted a conversion that was affordable and, then, I didn't own a car and being close to public transport was important. It was really well presented and laid out," says Nabigon, who has since purchased a car.

When he moved in July 2003, Nabigon, who owned no furniture, managed to outfit the place almost entirely in one day. He found "a nice armoire" made from recycled teak at Morning Star Trading Co., his sofa came from the Chesterfield Shop and the dining room set from Kates & Co. As well as new pieces, one of his proudest finds is an antique ladder he recovered from a Queen St. salvage shop. He also found some French doors in the Habitat for Humanity ReStore.

But this year, tired of living with stark white walls, he wanted to decorate. And that's when panic set in.

"I was paralyzed with fear about using colour," admits the 35-year-old lawyer for the Durham Children's Aid Society. "The loft has 13 1/2-foot-high ceilings with an eight-foot dividing partition wall around the bedroom. There is also a 10- by 22-foot, east-facing window. The loft had spatial and visual challenges and just the fact that it is open concept made using multiple colours a real challenge."

He'd read an article in the *Toronto Star* last year about colour consultant Sylvia O'Brien, owner of Colour Theory, and saved



Clem Nabigon's kitchen features a vibrant burnt orange accent wall, pecan cupboards and a charcoal grey backsplash. Colour consultant Sylvia O'Brien says Nabigon's bold personality required bold colours.

► Please see **Colour**, P5