

Philadelphia magazine's

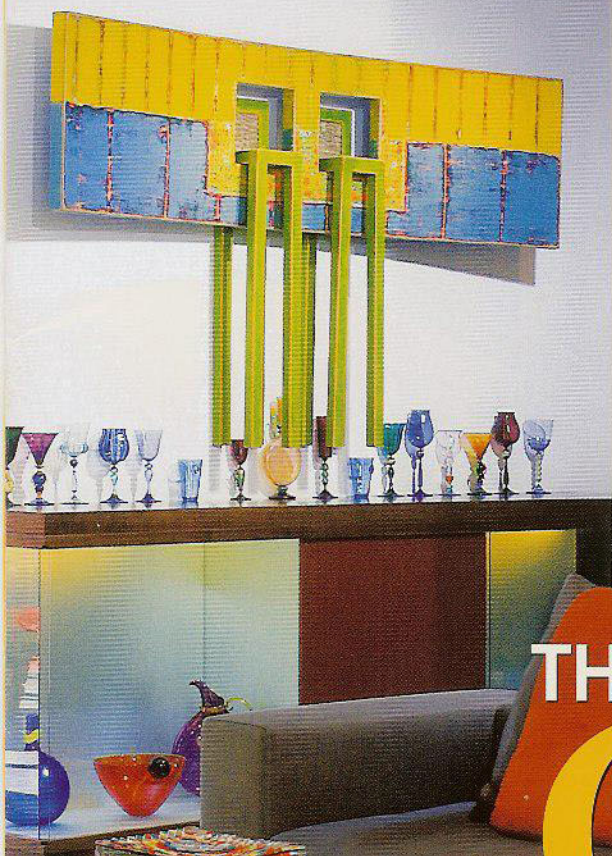
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# HOME & GARDEN

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# Inside Dish

Only one thing is wrong with Tupperware parties:

Tupperware. But thanks to Philadelphia Home Art Garden in Center City, you can now enjoy the fun of a girls'

night and the convenience of shopping at home with products you'll actually want to buy. A personal party consultant helps you choose home accessories your guests will fancy from an inventory that includes items from the store's exclusive bar and stemware line, Lush, such as colorful feather-boa coasters and smoky gray etched goblets, plus swank fashion dishware, SHOWN, and even, space permitting, garden gnomes, chrome-finished cuckoo clocks and glass accent lamps. Tailor the selection to a theme—bachelorette, poker, garden—or simply throw one just because. "We get a lot of requests from people who just want a reason to get together with their girlfriends on a Friday night, have some wine and cheese, and shop," says owner Jason Crook. That's our idea of a party—no burping required.

—Caroline Tiger



➔ PHILADELPHIA HOME ART GARDEN, 1225 Walnut St., 215-627-0461, thephagshop.com

## ALL-STAR ADVICE

Paul DiMeo, Media native and resident designer/carpenter on ABC's *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition*, creates smart, comfortable living spaces, both on and off set. On a recent visit to the area—a break from building homes for struggling families across the country—he shared some advice on how to make everything from color choices to renovations a breeze.



**Q: What's the best place to start when you're thinking about renovating your home?**

**A:** The most important tool is a pencil. Take notes. Know exactly what you want to do, read the magazines, go to the home shows, look at the products and know what you want.

**Q: What's one thing you can do to make sure your home renovation project ends up looking great?**

**A:** Find someone you would trust enough to give your keys to when you have to go to work. Ask your neighbors who they have used in the past. If you find someone who understands what you want and you can trust, you will get exactly what you want.

**Q: How important is color in a room?**

**A:** Very, very important. Design is subjective—although there are some bad color mixtures. I do believe that if you love purple walls, you should paint your walls purple.

**Q: When choosing staple items such as countertops and cabinets, how can you be sure you will love it to five years?**

**A:** You can never go wrong with texture. Each morning when you're having your cup of coffee at your new big oak table, you will find something new—and they're not flaws, they're just what make it yours.

—Jennifer Iacovelli