

JASON MIDDLEBROOK

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they like it like that

FROM ERSATZ CHANDELIER SHOPS TO THE GLEAMING CORRIDORS OF THE HOME DEPOT, THE URBAN ARTIST CHANNELS INSPIRATION FROM THE MOST UNEXPECTED OF WONDERS. PHOTOGRAPHER/ARTIST KELLY LAMB TRACKS SIX ARTISTS AS THEY LEAD US TO THEIR SECRET SOURCES FOR CONCEPT AND STYLE. TEXT BY JULIA CHAPLIN



VITAL STATISTICS JASON MIDDLEBROOK Sculptor, Sara Meltzer Gallery, New York. **MOST GENIUS TITLE (TO DATE)** *I Can't Imagine Ever Owning My Own Home*. This was a video that had me outside a suburban house doing chores such as leaf blowing. I wore a multicolored nylon jumpsuit and ended up lying "dead" on the front lawn with a dog licking my face. **STYLE FETISH** The perfect surface. Whether it's studio tables or walls, I like them seamless and white with no unsightly blemishes. **URBAN WALDEN POND** My garden patio in Brooklyn that my wife, artist Kate Needham, designed. **MUSE OF THE MOMENT** My studio assistant, Letha Wilson, a Hunter College grad student who saves my life every day. **CONSUMER TURN-ON** Without a doubt, any Home Depot, but especially the one in Brooklyn. It has endless information for ideas and tools. There are lots of interesting people, such as Hasidic families shopping at midnight and Puerto Rican couples fighting in the aisles. **PACKAGING ENVY** Japanese gardens and their sense of order and control in relation to a potentially chaotic form, such as a plant, and Japanese women's fashion sense.

NEXT STOP Pastoral Pop! Whitney Museum of American Art at Philip Morris, through December 15, 2000