

"I encourage people to start young. Work with a vendor who'll allow you to pay in installments, if need be."

BERT PADELL
CLOCK COLLECTOR

especially children's organizations, to view his collections. "I encourage people to start young," he said. "Work with a vendor who'll allow you to pay in installments, if need be. Collecting is a terrific way to learn about the world, as well as to add beauty and interest to your life and home."

Known for the streamlined luxury of his interiors, the designer Benjamin Noriega-Ortiz at his own home indulges a predilection for "chicken art." Noriega-Ortiz recalled that, growing up in Puerto Rico, "I always admired the elegance of cockfighting roosters and the texture of their feathers. The collection began with a whimsical chicken my partner bought me for Christmas,

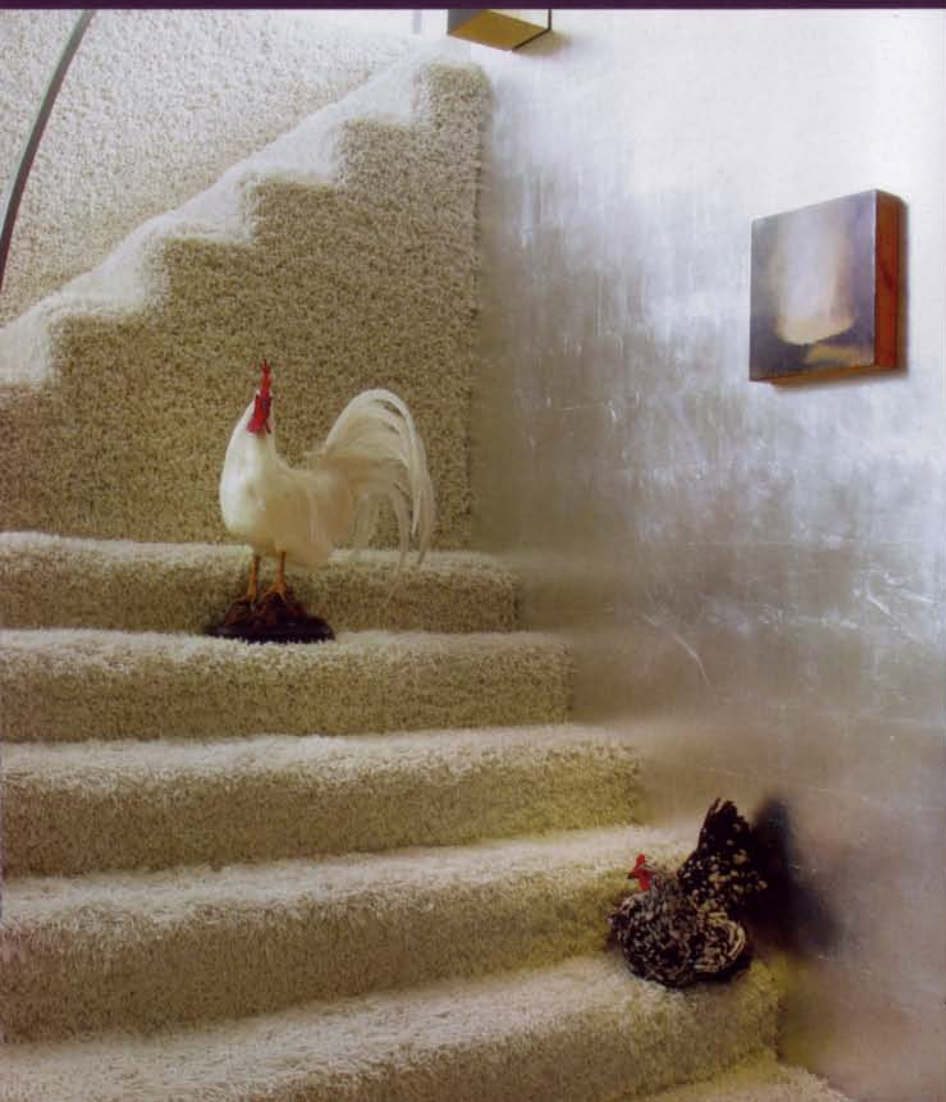


PHOTO: VICTOR ZUREBL

Above: Bert Padell's collection of clocks and pocket watches dating from the early 19th century.

Below: Benjamin Noriega-Ortiz's taxidermy chickens watch their step in his Chelsea duplex.

Opposite page, top: R. Scott Bromley's collection of mongo—found objects—includes ceramic dogs, a box from Bali, a Lalique crystal fish, a lock and key from India, and a model of a 1960 MG, similar to the car he first drove from his native Canada to New York.



perhaps inspired by the fact that I always had books on chickens and loved to visit state fairs."

Serving as "a fun greeting for visitors," the couple has a pair of stuffed chickens at the entrance of their duplex apartment in Chelsea. Along with these taxidermy chickens, there are life-size chickens made of a variety of natural materials, plus portraits of exotic breeds. Noriega-Ortiz sees the birds as objects of beauty as well as amusement. "I design lighting fixtures using various chicken feathers because the quality of light when filtered through the feathers is magical."

It is not surprising that R. Scott Bromley, the designer whose groundbreaking work includes Studio 54 and the renovation and redesign of San Francisco's only Richard Neutra house, has a decidedly urban sensibility. His appreciation extends to the objects he finds on the street. These pieces are known as

"I always admired the elegance of cockfighting roosters and the texture of their feathers."

BENJAMIN NORIEGA-ORTIZ
CHICKEN-ART COLLECTOR

PHOTO: MARK BYRON