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APRIL 2001

SPECIAL REPORT

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BID FOR THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE?



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## RECOVERING MEMORY

George Lucas isn't the only one who's going to get a piece of the Presidio. You can too. With his Decommission series, Christian Dauer brings bits of history to his clients: Pieces are made of salvaged timber from Crissy Field and the Oakland Naval Yards.

New furniture made from old wood makes perfect sense in light of Dauer's interests. The 36-year-old got his start as a preservationist in Savannah, Georgia, before earning an architecture degree from the University of Texas at Austin. His next stop was New York, where he worked on high-end interiors, Hamptons cabanas, and even a couple of Upper East Side private schools. Tired of constructing WASPs' nests, Dauer came west, landing on South Van Ness across from the 101 on-ramp. That was six years ago.

He quickly found something interesting in his new town's past. "The military's infrastructure has played a big part in the Bay's life," he says. Working with several salvage dealers, Dauer has had his pick of interesting, high-quality materials: found and reclaimed objects, often from military bases (although the Presidio source has now "dried up," says Dauer, thanks to redevelopment).

Simplicity infuses Dauer's person—all six-foot-five of him. His workshop is also his office and a collection point for inspirations. And it is not a mess. The efficient, organized, 1,700-square-foot space won a design award from the American Institute of Architects' local chapter in February.

With a preservationist's eye for finding history, Dauer chooses old wood, metal, and hardware that bring something new to his designs. He then recombines them in a beguiling way—like with his bookshelf (pictured), a witty piece held together by battle-scarred bar clamps. "I like finding material that's been ignored, transforming it and giving it a new lease on life," he says. AVAILABLE AT INTERGRAND DESIGN IN SANTA CRUZ, (831) 426-4717, AND THROUGH DAUER, (415) 431-5518. □

christian  
dauer



decommission table



clamp shelf



manda desk

