

# Ready for Take-off!

Malibu transplant Steve Brooks surfs the world for his eclectic emporium

| By Alison Miller | Photography by Trevor Paulbus |

Don't forget to pack your Vuitton valise before taking a tour of Steve Brooks' year-old home furnishings store on Henderson Avenue's burgeoning shelter row. Wandering the showroom with the 30-year-old owner of The Wooden House—and loyal Cayden, a 3-year-old Vizsla—is akin to stamping a passport, sans security hassles.

That armoire? "Made by a Dutch artist who partnered with a man in Rajasthan," says Brooks. Table? "The top is an Indonesian teak door, and the legs are wind vents from a cottage in Java. It's from Situbondo, a tiny village near the Java coast." He hand-picked both pieces and oozes backstories of trips to Asia, his destination of choice for furniture finds these days, says Brooks, clad in leather flip-flops, crisp chino shorts and an untucked blue Oxford.

"They're building things out of the most incredible reclaimed woods—teak from rail yards, sheesham doors from temples—stuff we just can't get over here."

Rather than perusing catalogs to source his vision, Brooks just hits the road. He just returned from Indonesia. Next July, he'll go to India. And though he does work with suppliers at international trade shows to have furniture custom-built, his off-the-beaten path finds are the most prized.

"I come back from trips with a completely new outlook," Brooks says. "My aesthetic, my work, my relationships, my taste in food—it all gets refreshed." ■

2918 N. Henderson Ave., [thewoodenhouse.org](http://thewoodenhouse.org).

## Brooks' Hots

Paul Smith dress shoes, drive-in movie theaters, godmother sandwich from Bay Cities Italian Deli in Santa Monica, Canon Powershot, Balsamand Lake Palace restaurant in Jodhpur, India, spearfishing, Google Voice, Ferragamo calfskin laptop tote, yellow legal pads and a Libelle Fresco pen, Rainbow sandals, Kobe cheeseburgers, Chris Denny & The Natives

## Brooks' Nots

Ill-trained dogs and most cats (sorry, I'm a dog person), hair gel, Twitter, London Heathrow Airport, Affliction T-shirts, wearing anything but shorts in 105-degree weather, overpriced furniture, laziness



Steve Brooks and Cayden, at The Wooden House.