

CURRENTS

Bonnie Schwartz

INTERIOR DESIGN

Hiding Behind the Light, in Plain Sight



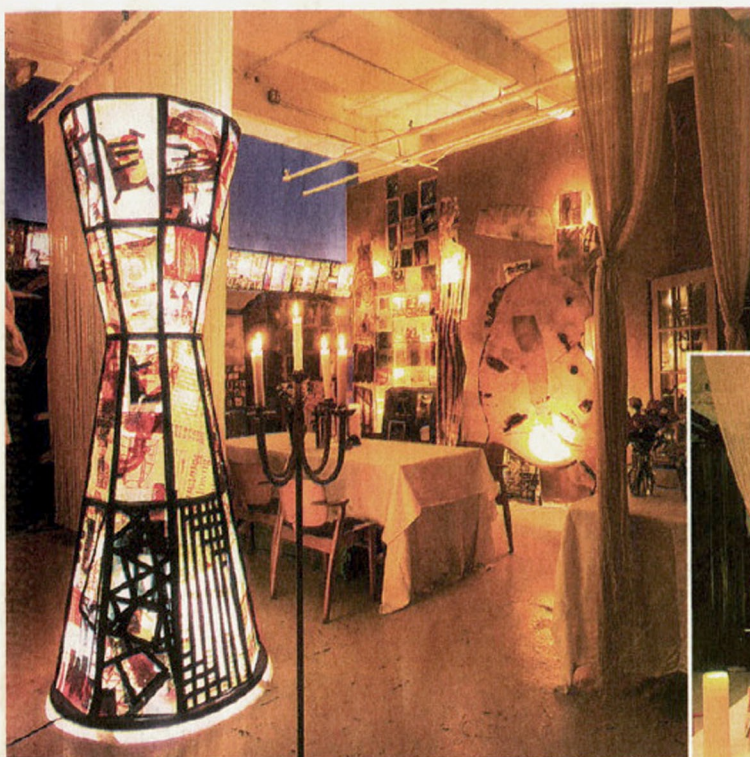
As the co-owner and director of design for the last 22 years at Studio EIS in the Dumbo neighborhood of Brooklyn, Ivan Schwartz has become an expert builder of large-scale props for museums, stores, restaurants and hotels. An artist in his own right, Mr. Schwartz, left, is also a collagist who logs hour upon hour clipping, photocopying, painting and silhouetting images onto two- and three-dimensional surfaces.

Now, Mr. Schwartz has brought both parts of his life together in a living and working environment he designed next to Studio EIS. The abundance of space made theatricality easy, he said of his 12-foot-high, 1,600-square-foot studio, which offers spectacular views of the Brooklyn Bridge and Lower Manhattan.

The space, left and below, which Mr. Schwartz uses for rest and entertaining, was assembled from his resin-coated collage paintings and sculptures, many lighted from behind; inexpensive but elegant draperies from Rose Brand Fabrics, theatrical suppliers in

Manhattan; lots of candlelight; and a niched area defined by tall, resin-coated storage closets (at rear left) and a warmly painted concrete floor.

"Layering has always been very important to me," he said. "It compels you to keep looking." The hard surfaces — resin and concrete — are juxtaposed with the soft — pleated draperies and ambient light. The result is clean yet Mondrianesque; wherever you look there is more to see.



Photographs by Fred R. Conrad/The New York Times

