

Personal passions pervade the eclectic living room. Downie insisted on buying the floor drum in Kenya at age 11. "I lugged it through five more countries and onto the plane," he says. The Chinese calligraphy was a gift from friends when Zimmermann studied in Beijing. Opposite: Cabinets in the compact kitchen only look expensive; they're made by Thomasville (at Home Depot) but have upmarket Häfele hardware.

