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Edited by
Dawn Eyles



PRISM CELLS
Alan Design Studio's
radical room divider

COLOR CRAZY

Screen Shot

At Art Basel this past winter, design art—"one off" furniture pieces created by artisans—made a huge comeback. And a perfect example of this highly labor-intensive and collectible living art sits pretty (and impressively) in the window of Alan Design Studio's newly revamped store on that happenin' strip of Damen Avenue just north of Armitage. The object of our affection is a 9-by-7-foot metal screen with gorgeous translucent panes of colored glass inserted into the frame. According to co-owner Ruthie Alan, the inspiration for the screen came after debating a solution to the problem of defining the various vignettes of their handcrafted upholstery work and collectibles. "We were grappling with the changes we were

going through as artists," she explains, "and how we wanted to approach the new store display. My mother [Jean, the other half of the firm] found these panes of slab glass called Dalle de Verre long ago, and we laid them out to see how we would use them. And the idea just came to me—a screen!" A brilliant prism of blues, greens, yellows, oranges and reds is projected on the white wall behind it during daylight hours, encouraging many a passerby to stop and take in the three-dimensional mosaic. "The outcome exceeded our original vision," says Alan. "We are always trying to come up with unique solutions to design dilemmas." 2134 N. Damen Ave., 773.278.2345, alandesignstudio.com

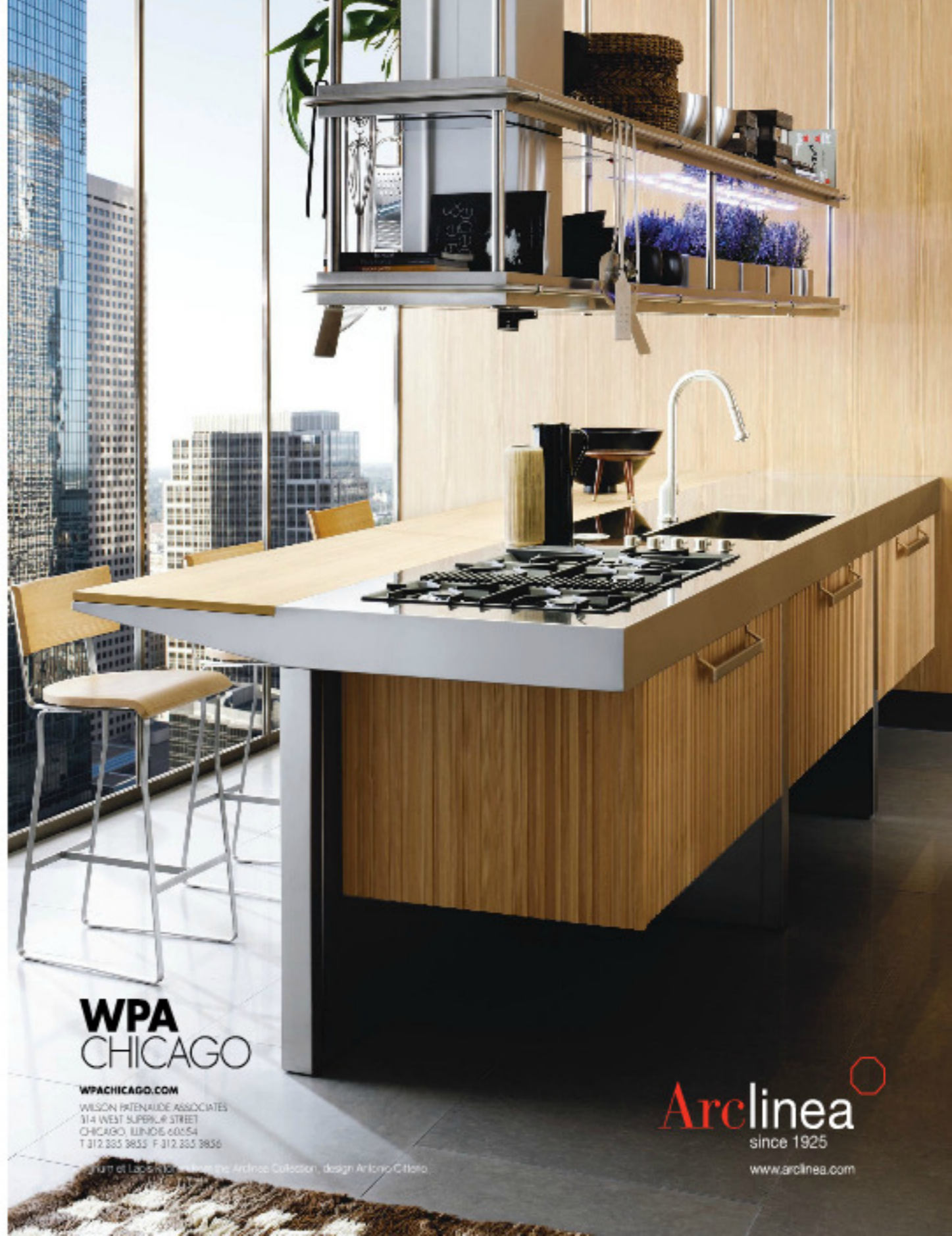


BOOK LOOK

Required Reading

Between 1880 and 1895, Dankmar Adler and Louis Sullivan produced a stridently American architecture—one that drew from nature for ornament while creating simple, modern forms out of steel frames. Now, the Richard Nickel Committee in Chicago has published an eight-pound book addressing the pair's work, *The Complete Architecture of Adler & Sullivan*, by Richard Nickel and Axon Sorkind with John Vinci and Ward Miller. Its 470-plus pages are chock-full of photos taken by Nickel in the 1960s and '70s as he cataloged the declining state of the firm's buildings. "It's one surprise after another," says Miller, director of the committee. "It shows how Chicago has grown over time." \$95, richardnickelcommittee.org —J. Michael Walton

ALAN DESIGN: GREEN PHOTO COURTESY OF ANNALEIGH DE MARO



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