

# HOME

F O R T L A U D E R D A L E



\$4.95



HOMEFTL.COM

11/09



## NOW SERVING: RECLAIMED STYLE

Mauricio Del Valle is the epitome of Zen. He and his home emit tranquility and harmony, from his simple jeans-and-T-shirt style to his gauzy, ethereal loft apartment tucked inside a lush complex just blocks from the neon chaos of Ocean Drive. It's not surprising that he eats local, seasonal food, cooking light meals for himself and occasionally inviting friends over for quiet dinners. "They sit and drink wine, and we talk while I cook," explains Del Valle.

The kitchen, which he designed himself, suits his casual entertaining needs perfectly. It is a tribute to stainless steel — a material he selected for its minimalist look and ease of cleaning. The sink component was salvaged from a restaurant and, therefore, came pre-scratched. "I don't have to worry about it," he says. "I can cut directly on the counter." The island, also stainless, is actually a tabletop screwed onto two large toolboxes — the kind Bob Vila, not Bobby Flay, would use. With drawers of various sizes, the cases comfortably accommodate everything from utensils to serving dishes. Both workstations are on wheels, making them

multifunctional — the island can be rolled away to become a dining table — a theme throughout the room.

Specimen jars line the open shelves and are filled with beans, nuts, teas and pastas, which act as both ingredients and art. Other accessories include bowls, baskets and bright orange stools picked up at consignment stores, farmers' markets and Target, respectively. "I don't like to decorate," admits Del Valle. "I'm attracted to organic shapes, and I buy things along the way." The bamboo light fixture, a late acquisition and room focal point, is the Koura pendant by English naval architect David Trubridge and ties together the functional, industrial materials with the earthy accents.

The same synergy that pervades Del Valle's home is reflected in his career; as a landscape architect with Raymond Jungles, he creates green spaces throughout Miami. "When you live in a city, it's refreshing to come home to a calm, muted space," he says. And that's exactly what he created for himself: a serene refuge with the kitchen at the epicenter.

—Dawn Spinner Davis



Stainless-steel elements, reclaimed from restaurants, make up this bare necessities studio kitchen. A sustainable bamboo Koura pendant by David Trubridge casts fragments of light around the room.