

At home

An occasional look at what's new & noteworthy

OFFICE SPACES

Isaac Mizrahi has room to grow his collections



Photos by Robert Deutsch, USA TODAY

In the work studio: Mizrahi, Harry and Singer (the sewing machine).

NEW YORK — When your office is more — way more — than the size of a cubicle, the decorating possibilities extend well beyond the frame of a corkboard.

Just west of Manhattan's Garment District, designer and emerging lifestyle maven Isaac Mizrahi has 18,000 square feet of new workspace to play with — enough room to nurture all his projects, including his Target lines and couture collection. (The studio for his Style Network show, *Isaac*, is even located here.)

But Mizrahi's workplace, the entire fourth floor, is no maze of drywalled rooms. White columns, about 20 feet high, are just about all that interrupt the flow. "What I love about the space is that it really has no boundaries," says Mizrahi, who began moving in last fall. "It is so amorphous, and it can change in a second."

Likewise, there's little division among the businesses: Seamstresses stitch custom gowns mere feet from where ideas for Target togs are hatched. "It really is a high/low world," Mizrahi says.

Office furniture references everything but the office. To wit, there are no Aeron chairs here. Instead, there are white upholstered formal antiques and old iron-and-wood factory seats. Something red

and modern from Design Within Reach and something low and cozy Mizrahi plucked off the streets of the Upper West Side more than two decades ago. Sleek black club chairs from the '50s and plain wood school chairs Mizrahi picked up at a nearby flea market and had stripped and refinished, originally

used as dining room chairs for his Bridgehampton beach house. And, of course, Target's \$19.99 folding white metal Isaac chairs, with their hot pink seats and mandarin orange backs.

"I don't like sets of chairs," Mizrahi says. "I only like hodgepodes." A motley assortment is stationed around the conference table.

Lines between Mizrahi's home and work are blurred in other ways. Harry, his 6-year-old golden/border collie mix, is as much a fixture here as the early 20th-century Singer sewing machine in a corner. One of many once owned by Mizrahi's dad, a manufacturer of children's clothes, it has followed Mizrahi from his family's Brooklyn basement (he learned to sew on it), to his Upper West Side studio apartment, to his former Soho studio, to here.

"It really should be bronzed, shouldn't it?"

— Olivia Barker



Have a seat: Factory iron/wood chair.