

De Lisle's new
Linden table
lamp for the
Future Perfect.

BEYOND THE PALE

DESIGNER CHARLES DE LISLE DEBUTS A NEW LINE OF LIGHTING FOR THE FUTURE PERFECT.

BY HILLARY BROWN

"I'm a Gemini, so I'm easily bored," says Charles de Lisle of his multidisciplinary approach to design. Not only does the San Francisco-based designer whip up elegantly edited interiors with a spare, hand-hewn feel, but he also pays homage to his forebears by crafting simple yet exquisitely detailed furniture and lighting. "I need to have that outlet—to have a conversation, to try things, and to experiment," the 49-year-old says.

De Lisle, who was born in rural Massachusetts, has furniture making in his blood—his father was a Colonial-reproductions manufacturer and his grandfather was a machinist. After a

stint in New York City in the 1990s, he moved to Northern California, moonlighting as a welder and metal fabricator. While he was assisting an event planner who worked in homes designed by such notables as Albert Hadley and John Dickinson, the proverbial lightbulb switched on. "These were people who created spaces that went beyond pretty rooms—they were about experiences," he says. A designer was born.

Perhaps it is this unorthodox background that allows de Lisle to fearlessly juxtapose disparate palettes and textures in his projects, from the Giorgio de ▶

The Linden
brass sconce
from the
Future Perfect.

talent

Chirico-esque dressing rooms at Rachel Comey's eponymous Manhattan boutique—with their arched doorframes, raw-concrete walls, and lush mustard-hued curtains—to Havre 77, the popular Mexico City restaurant that boasts Colonial-era filigree plasterwork, redone in dusty pink, and a bar constructed from rustic wood. The result? Intimate spaces that exude relaxed glamour. That same spirit also accurately describes de Lisle's new line of lighting for the Future Perfect.

At his Mill Valley, California, home, a hodgepodge of vintage pieces mingles with prototypes for de Lisle's new lighting collection (he self-deprecatingly refers to his home's interior as a yard sale,



De Lisle's Scout cocktail tables.

due to his obsessive collecting habits). De Lisle sits for a rare moment of reflection in front of the 18-foot-tall glass facade. "I'm ready for a redo and some pattern in here," he says. "I've been threatening floral fabrics." ■



Maximo Bistrot, designed by de Lisle, in Mexico City.



The exterior of de Lisle's house in Mill Valley, California. LEFT: The designer at home.

TABLES: DANIEL PORTER; RESTAURANT: VICTOR BENITEZ; EXTERIOR: LESLIE WILLIAMSON; PORTRAIT: DANIEL DENT