

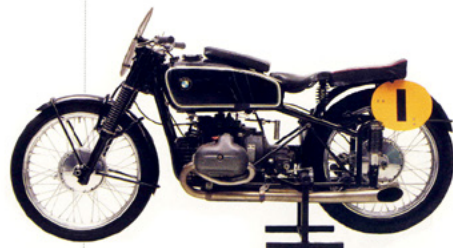


PORTRAIT: MARC HANSEN, OPPOSITE: ROBERT JULIEN, TOP RIGHT: © BMW GROUP ARCHIVE

Designer John Barnett's live/work space is littered with well-thumbed notepads and detailed sketches. Opposite: Barnett's single-level lounge tables feature hand-chiseled walnut tops.

John Barnett is a man of many incarnations. Prior to founding JBD Design Ltd. in 2000, Barnett was a successful physical therapist who treated his passion for furniture design like a late-night hobby, sketching ideas purely for the enjoyment it brought him. "I have notebooks full of designs," he says. But it wasn't long before admiring friends began commissioning pieces; referrals followed, and Barnett was eventually hired to not only design the furnishings, but also to manage the complete renovation of a 2,000-square-foot Lake Shore Drive residence. He soon embraced design full time, and last summer, after years of custom commissions, Barnett made his public debut with a line of furniture available at Bucktown's Michael Del Piero Good Design. And while the multi-faceted Barnett is delighted to be pursuing his passion, other career possibilities, like acting, interest him. "Being able to get into a role and convey emotions would be quite rewarding." jbdenison.com; 312.846.6576.

A BMW Compressor racing motorcycle, circa 1949.



DESIGN THERAPY

JOHN BARNETT



Design Inspiration:

Parisian, Dutch and Bauhaus designers from the 1920s. There was so much excitement and creativity going on at that time—clean, fresh lines to the furniture with no fuss.

Current Obsession:

My vintage BMW motorcycle. I've been riding since I was young, and I've always been infatuated with the sense of freedom as well as the artistry involved in manufacturing motorcycles, especially the classics.

Top Shops:

The Paris Flea Market, of course. But you never know where you'll find a gem. I once discovered a rare, museum-quality piece of Tiffany pottery for \$15 at a Goodwill in Bloomington, Illinois.

On My Nightstand:

Shop Class as Soulcraft by Matthew B. Crawford. It's about the increasing number of "knowledge workers" in our society and what gets lost when people get away from working with their hands.

Favorite Getaway:

Windermere, a private island in the Bahamas off the coast of Eleuthera. It's not an overdeveloped island, so the beaches are pristine. It's gorgeous.