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INSIDE OUT

THE SUMMER ISSUE



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BOY MEETS (REAL) WORLD

Chicago-based designer Lukas Machnik has quite a reputation, having been nicknamed the Bad Boy of Design, thanks to his unruly style and the fierce ambition with which he won NBC's hit show *American Dream Builders*. We caught up with Machnik to find out what it was really like being on the show, what he learned from other contestants and what he's up to now.

By Hannah Cole

What do you think of your Bad Boy of Design nickname?

I've always wanted to set the trends and break the rules, and when *Interiors Chicago* first profiled me in the Summer 2008 issue, the author nicknamed me the Bad Boy of Design. It could sound a little bit self-serving to some, but I'm a minimalist, and I work in very contemporary-modern aesthetics. On the show, I was trying to find my own interpretation of styles that I'm not necessarily fond of. Like in the finale, it was a beach house, and I painted it black.

From where do you pull your inspiration?

Despite my love for clean lines, I respect architecture in general. On the show, I looked at the best parts of each particular home and reinterpreted it for my own practice

and point of view. It's about purity of design. I didn't want to be in between styles.

What was the most exciting part of being on the show?

I was able to have this crash course, working with all of these different styles and learning from all of the other designers. We were all Type A personalities; everyone is the head of their own company and good at what they do. You had to let go of the notion that you're the boss. We each had a very strong aesthetic, but we taught each other something.

What's next for you?

I'm in the process of working on another TV show, which will focus on my practice and my design, and also my thoughts on art and culture. I'm also working on a book about how to break all of the rules and follow your design instincts, an art collection at Holly Hunt and a big hotel project in New York. There is also a furniture line in the works!



BACK TO BLACK
Lukas Machnik of
NBC's *American
Dream Builders*