



**HAS IT MADE:** Right, Robert Massello and Lola sit on a rattan and linen '80s couch (\$1,650) between glazed ceramic '70s lamps (\$750 the pair) and under a painting by Ramon Alejandro, *La inseguridad del estado* (\$40,000). Above, a 1970s Rougier lamp of PVC (\$5,000).



PHOTOS BY PETER ANDREW BOY

# EVER CHANG

## VINTAGE FURNITURE AND ANTIQUES FLOW IN AND

BY SAXON HENRY

Special to The Miami Herald

Enticed by the weather, Robert Massello opened the Miami Antique and Design Expo, known as M.A.D.E., in 2005 when he moved from his native New York.

"I knew immediately that I'd done the right thing," he says. "Business just took off. Hotels were going in and it was the height of the building boom. Some of the country's biggest designers were doing projects here."

Massello describes M.A.D.E. as eclectic and fun, not too serious. "Our inven-

tory is constantly in flux, which brings people back," he says, "though I have to admit that many of our customers come in to see Lola, our boxer, as often as they do to shop."

Those who do shop find an array of furnishings from which to choose. A sampling includes a carved wooden palm tree torchiere in a Serge-Roche style; a late 19th/early 20th century Italian gilded sofa covered in white duck; Vladamir Kagen Lucite and mohair chairs; and several etched bronze tables by Philip Lavern.

M.A.D.E.'s offerings cross all styles and periods. Prices in the light-filled, roomy showroom that is filled to the brim with furnishings range from \$125 for small Lucite accessories to \$16,000 for a pair of rock crystal lamps or a Deco Lucite and mahogany cabinet by Grosfeld House.

Vintage finds include a Tommi Parzinger buffet in bright apple green and white, and a set of brass Paul McCobb benches covered in a tiger print, which sells for \$2,500.

Browsing is a surprising

experience as antiques and retro furnishings are placed side-by-side rather than separated by periods or styles. Furniture by Paul Evans coexists with a leather elephant footstool by Abercrombie & Fitch and Lucite accessories, such as paperweights and bookends.

Massello loves to "revamp" things — he'll rebuild, repaint or reupholster as long as the item has good bones.

Massello credits his mother, who had a shop when he was growing up, for his ability to spot quality.

"My mother was a collector," he says. "When I was a child, she had a shop in Miami. It was filled with antiques and furnishings."

Business was slow since then, but he was drawn to the world of mouth-to-mouth. He found it as easily as a 1stDibs.com listing in his neighborhood.

Local customers, some of them famous designers, like Gorgias, were drawn to his corner.