

# time will tell



**Collecting is in their DNA.** His mother amassed cuckoo clocks. Her father was an artist who used found objects to make assemblages. Today, Charles and Andrea Rabinovitch work together at Charles Rabinovitch Architects in the Bronx, New York. They're also continuing to work on a collection that got its start when they met 30 years ago—and that has just been featured in *Collected: Living With the Things You Love*, an Abrams book by Fritz Karch and Rebecca Robertson.

"In the beginning, it was random, just things that caught our eye," Andrea Rabinovitch says. Eventually, distinct categories emerged: clocks, ashtrays, and other vessels. Common denominators are materials (metal or ceramic), purity of form, and a mid-century pedigree. "We're OCD about it," Charles Rabinovitch says with a laugh.

Early trips to Israel helped the couple refine their scope. "Many European refugees came to Tel Aviv," Andrea Rabinovitch notes. One such was Maurice Ascalon. Often called the father of modern Israeli decorative arts, he produced bronze and brass objects, both Judaic and secular, under the name Pal-Bell. "We loved the rawness," she says. "We zoomed in on mid-century before it got hot."

## "We're OCD about a mid-century pedigree"

Back home, Charles Rabinovitch continues, "We hit flea markets and thrift shops. Then came eBay." And, with it, the clocks, many of them wind-up versions. The total number? Inestimable. Thanks to clever display solutions, however, there's not a tad of clutter in the couple's 1950's house. —**Eddie Cohen**

# LOVE affair



ANDREA BRIZZI



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**Opposite left, from top:** Charles Rabinovitch Architects's name-sake principal. His wife, Andrea Rabinovitch, the firm's director of interior design. The house in the Bronx, New York, where they display their collection of clocks, ashtrays, and other vessels. **Opposite right:** Mid-century clocks on acrylic shelves. **From left:** Examples of 1950's and '60's metal ashtrays, some by Maurice Ascalon or Ben Seibel. The solid-surfacing top of the table used for display.

