

## SHOPPING WITH

DAVID SCOTT

## For Your Inner Pandora

Boxes to hide keepsakes or even the remote control.



FRED R. CONRAD/THE NEW YORK TIMES

**BEHOLD** David Scott, who prefers boxes that are decorative and utilitarian, ponders a faux malachite one at Maison 24 on Park Avenue; \$350, (212) 355-2414, maison24.com.

**T**O say that David Scott is box-obsessed might be an understatement.

Mr. Scott, an interior designer whose first book, "Outside the Box," was just published by Pointed Leaf Press, owns more than 100 boxes.

Some are displayed in his Water Mill, N.Y., home. Others are arrayed on a wall of shelving created out of boxlike components by Antonio Citterio in his United Nations Plaza apartment — where the view is of the twin apartment building next door, which is essentially a series of boxes.

And for every design project, Mr. Scott, 51, presents the client with an inspiration box filled with the typical samples of fabrics, carpet and tile, as well as elements of nature or other items that evoke the mood he's trying to create.

"What I love about this kind of decorative art," he said, "is that it is utilitarian."

He uses decorative boxes to hide everything from remote controls to art supplies, he said, and "everything is all organized and neat, and works well."

On a recent shopping trip, he said, joking, "I'm trying to think outside the box." But his first stop was at Maison 24 on Park Avenue, where he fell in love with an orange faux-malachite one.

"I love orange — it's a neutral for me," he said. "This box has a big gorgeous pattern on it, it's marbled, and I like the square shape."

The Treasure Boxes by Alexandra von Furstenberg also caught his eye. "With these, you're not hiding things," he said. "You're displaying them. You could put seashells or rocks in here. Or just leave them empty — nothing wrong with that."

As a child, he said, he decorated his room in a safari theme, which might explain why a zebra-striped box at Flair, a shop in SoHo, was a must-have, as was a snakeskin-patterned box he found at Nest, in Chelsea. Both boxes, he said, had "a little bit of safari."

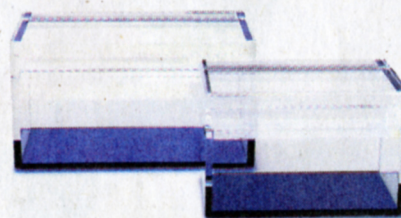
"Getting a box like that lets you have a little moment of exoticism," he said, "rather than doing a whole room that way, which would honestly be tacky. Too much of a good thing really is too much of a good thing." RIMA SUQI



Nineteenth-century Anglo-Indian teak box; \$9,500 at Newel Antiques, (212) 758-1970, newel.com.



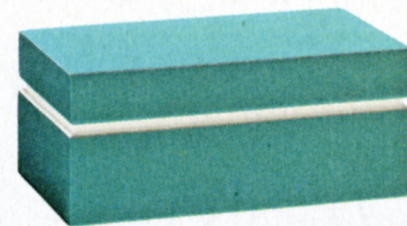
Handblown square Murano glass box; \$895 at Distant Origin, (212) 941-0024, distantorigin.com.



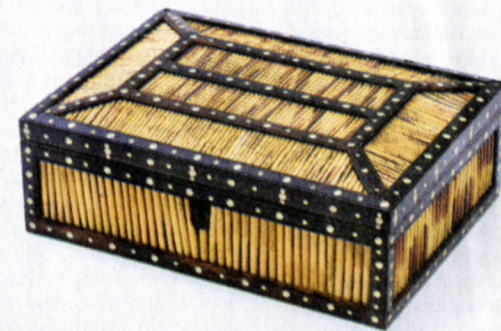
Treasure Boxes by Alexandra von Furstenberg; \$188 (small) and \$248 (medium) at Maison 24.



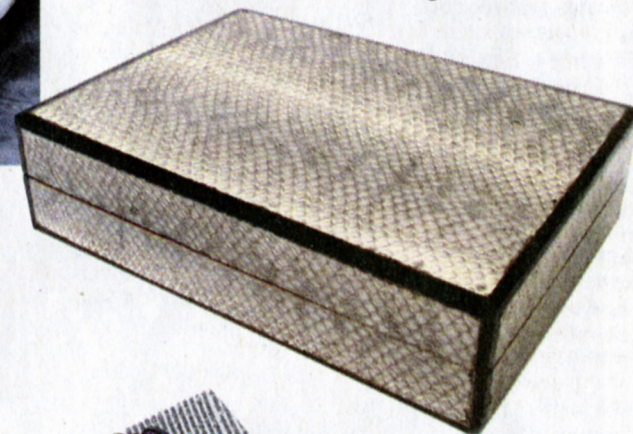
Zebra Ricordi box; \$2,400 at Flair, (212) 274-1750, flairhomecollection.com.



Stripe lacquer box; from \$19 to \$31 at West Elm, (888) 922-4119, westelm.com.



Ceylonese oblong quill box, circa 1880; about \$730 at Guinevere, 011-44-20-7736-2917, guinevere.co.uk.



Snakeskin box with rosewood trim; \$260 at Nest, (212) 337-3441, nestinteriorsny.com.



Ultimate Notizie box by Fornasetti; \$245 at Barneys New York, (888) 222-7639, barneys.com.