

# ELLE DECOR

summer  
chic

Fresh Rooms  
with Flair

Bedroom Bliss

Insiders' Guide  
to Chicago

All-American  
Style!

AUG/SEPT 2006  
USA \$3.95/CANADA \$4.95  
ELLEDECOR.COM



truth in decorating



Designers Elaine Griffin and Darren Henault with two of their choices: Light Horse by British Khaki Furniture and the Home Collection's teak bookcase. See Resources.

# The 10 Most Brilliant Bookcases

Interior designers Darren Henault and Elaine Griffin tell ELLE DECOR how some of their favorite bookcases really stack up

Text by Mitchell Owens · Photography by Pierre Chanteau · Produced by Anita Sarsidi

Books do furnish a room, the saying goes. But to effectively display a collection of books, you must make sure they are properly and safely housed. "A bookcase can take up a lot of visual room," says New York interior designer Darren Henault, "so you should consider the scale of the piece as much as the storage capacity." Henault also reveals a preference for bookcases with nonadjustable shelves "because everything looks neater when shelves are evenly spaced." Fellow designer

Elaine Griffin, on the other hand, appreciates the flexibility offered by do-it-yourself shelf heights and has a habit of turning bookcases into open storage—for fluffy white towels in a bath, stacks of china in a kitchen, or toys in a playroom. "Just because it's called a bookcase doesn't mean it has to be limited to books," she says. "To get your money's worth out of any piece of furniture, you really have to imagine not only what it's supposed to do but also what it *can* do." ▶