

SPECIAL 10<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY  
ISSUE

# SEATTLE HOMES & LIFESTYLES

## URBAN LIVING

# 10

tips for stylish condos  
must-have gourmet foods  
hot new furnishings  
small garden ideas  
artists to watch

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## + DECADE OF DESIGN

PROS SHARE THEIR INSPIRATIONS:  
ART, ANTIQUES, COLORS, FABRICS



# Robin Chell

Robin Chell doesn't much care for embellishments or gimmicks. That's why she's happy to see how far design has come since the embellished, gimmick-filled days of the early '90s. "It has grown up a lot, become more simple," she says. "And it's going to change radically with technology; we'll be forced to become more environmentally aware, to find new uses for existing materials." Style will be dictated by materials, not vice versa, she predicts.

Another shift, Robin says, has been the explosion of mass-marketed design. "Design has become more prevalent, and the public has become more design savvy because of it," she says. "Designers such as Michael Graves and Philippe Starck have become household names, and that can only be a good thing."

Designer: **Robin Chell**  
 Firm: **Robin Chell Design**, since 2001;  
 designing in Seattle since 1996  
 Contact: 3417 N.W. 68th St., Seattle;  
 (206) 760-0849, robinchelldesign.com.

**X DESIGN TIP:** For beautiful modern furniture made from reclaimed urban hardwood, check out Meyer | Wells ([meyerwells.com](http://meyerwells.com)).



"I adore this **dining table** for its strength, durability and simple beauty. It was designed in the '90s, yet looks as if it could have been designed yesterday. The solid white oak is stunning. The modern shape and traditional craftsmanship make it perfect for any décor." Bigfoot table e15, available through Current, 629 Western Ave., Seattle; (206) 622-2433, [currentonline.com](http://currentonline.com).



"I love this **chair**, which was designed in 2000 by Danish designers Boris Berlin and Poul Christiansen. It's made of rubber—an unconventional material. It's simple, stunning in appearance, and it's stackable, so it is functional too. And it's actually really comfortable. It's such a timelessly modern design that it made the permanent furniture collection of the Museum of Modern Art." NON Rubber Chair by Komplot Design, available to the trade through Hightower Group, LLC; (206) 992-7045, [hightoweraccess.com](http://hightoweraccess.com).



"This **Utrecht chair** was designed by Gerrit T. Rietveld in 1935—and it's such a modern classic! It's so streamlined and simple and can go with a lot of different styles. I especially love the clean detailing of the exposed stitching. It comes in blue, red, yellow and black—my favorites are red and black." Utrecht chair, available through Cassina USA; (800) 770-3568, [cassinaUSA.com](http://cassinaUSA.com).



"This **floor lamp** is just so straightforward; I love that. It was designed in 1962 but is still so uniquely modern. It's made from a car headlight, a fishing rod, a tractor part—a perfect example of form following material in fantastic design." Toio floor lamp, a Castiglioni design for FLOS, available through Current, 629 Western Ave., Seattle; (206) 622-2433, [currentonline.com](http://currentonline.com).



For more of designer Robin Chell's thoughts on the last decade in design, as well as where we're headed, see [seattlehomesmag.com](http://seattlehomesmag.com).