

DENVER'S BEST NEW RESTAURANTS

5280

Celebrating 15 Years As Denver's Magazine

FUN, CASUAL,
AFFORDABLE
EATS FOR
TOUGH TIMES

including

MASTERPIECE
DELICATESSEN

BISTRO ONE

FUEL CAFÉ

AND MORE

page 92



D Bar
Desserts'
cake and shake

December 2008 | 5280.com | \$4.99



The Untold Story Of
**THE CHUCK E.
CHEESE KILLER**

by Patrick Doyle and Natasha Gardner

**WHY COLORADANS
AND TEXANS**
Just Can't Get Along

page 82

Will The Real Denver
**PLEASE
STAND UP?**

by Shari Caudron

**ENTERTAINING
MADE EASY**
A Holiday Guide

page 104



McDowell's Faux Bois vase with matching ceramic tray

Smallville

Michael McDowell makes a big impact with little pieces.

When it comes to housewares, the best designs are born of necessity, which explains why Denver ceramicist Michael McDowell's compact ceramic vases have such broad appeal. McDowell, 38, started making them two years ago in his own home—a 500-square-foot apartment in Baker. He wanted the feel of a garden at his place, but, he says, "I didn't have a whole lot of room to work with." So he decided to scale down; the three-square-inch vases he dreamt up are small enough to place on a windowsill or desktop, yet big enough for herbs, succulents, cacti, and other hearty, city-adaptive plants. He started selling the vases on the artisan website Etsy.com and soon found there was demand nationwide. "A lot of people living in urban areas have the same dilemma I had," he says. McDowell currently sells his ceramics (which now have grown to include small sculptures) in California's Orange County Museum of Art and Portland's hip Ink & Peat gift shop. Though the pieces are not yet stocked in Denver shops, Front Rangers can find McDowell's wares online at www.michaelmcdowell.com. —CHERYL MEYERS

STORE OPENING

Ikea Comes to Colorado... Eventually.



In September, Ikea (finally) announced plans to open its first Colorado store in Centennial. But don't start redecorating just yet. The Swedish-modern big-box furniture chain won't finish the local store for another three years at least, which gives us more than enough time to brush up on our Ikea-speak (a *laxvik* is a shelf, while *ektorp* means sofa).



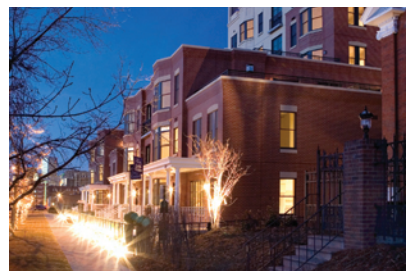
FOUND IT, LOVE IT

Ferenc Berko Prints

Internationally celebrated photographer Ferenc Berko's black-and-white shots of 1950s Aspen would look stunning in just about any Colorado home. The Hungarian-born Berko lived in Aspen from 1949 until his death in 2000; these select giclée reproductions—the highest digital quality available—come from his estate and are available through the Berko Photography gallery in Aspen. *Shown here: "Lift #2."* \$400–\$1,700; www.ferencberko.com

HOT PROPERTY

On the Mark



Development Watermark Luxury Residences

Address 410 Acoma St. (Fourth Avenue and Broadway)

Neighborhood Baker

Specs This seven-story luxury condo building opened in March 2008 with 90 one- and two-bedroom units (up to 2.5 baths). At press time, 30 percent were sold; available units range from 908 to 2,632 square feet.

Perks Architecture by Curtis W. Fentress (his credits include DIA and Invesco Field), contemporary finishes, ash-wood floors, wool carpet, granite slabs, Bosch and Jenn-Air appliances, rooftop infinity pool, fitness center, concierge, "Zen courtyard," and underground parking.

Price \$295,000–\$989,900 (available units)

More Info: 303-777-7037,

www.watermarkdenver.com