



On the whole, the grand old houses of New Orleans tend to be stuffed with antiques and festooned with the dangling crystal prisms of Victorian chandeliers. Locals have powerful ties to their familial pasts, and their devotion to the city's history is as fervent as ever—heirlooms and Oriental rugs remain far more plentiful in the Big Easy than contemporary art and midcentury chairs. That's not the case, however, in a certain circa-1829 home in the Faubourg Marigny area. While its crumbling pink stucco façade has a romantic patina, the mood inside is startlingly mod, with a black-and-white palette highlighting the building's flawless Greek Revival bone structure.

This spic-and-span aesthetic makes perfect sense for owner Sidney D. Torres IV. A dashing real-estate developer and venture capitalist who grew up in nearby St. Bernard Parish, he founded and directs the four-property French Quarter Hotel Group. (His latest undertaking is the Cove

Eleuthera, a resort in the Bahamas that reopens next month after a major renovation.) But it was his trash-collecting and street-cleaning operation, SDT Waste & Debris Services, launched shortly after Hurricane Katrina, that made him a hometown celebrity. The firm's black-and-silver trucks, matching uniforms, and fun, glam TV commercials starring Torres's friends Kid Rock and Lenny Kravitz captured the city's attention—and the entrepreneur's high-profile service to the community earned him a clutch of civic awards.

Torres sold the business about a year ago, in a deal he put together in his dining room, at a sleek custom-made table topped with polished black granite. "I use it as often for business meetings as I do for meals," he says of the lofty space, which is animated by a giant keyhole-shaped mirror in the surrealist manner of midcentury French designer Serge Roche.

That glittering mirror was one of the many treasures hunted down by



**Clockwise from top left:** Savoie and Torres on a second-floor gallery. The stucco-surfaced building, formerly one of Torres's boutique hotels, is frosted with cast-iron filigree. In the courtyard, whose plantings were designed by Luis Guevara Landscape Services, Ledbetter wrapped the pool around an existing 1830s cistern; the Richard Schultz chaise longues are from Knoll, and the lantern in the foreground is by Bevolo Gas and Electric Lights.