

style&design



A Higher Fidelity Designer Jody Racicot likes to fuse unlikely elements in his Modern Revision line, such as a desk made of a 1960s Formica dinette table top with traditionally dovetailed drawers and pulls made from vintage key heads. This year, the Prince Edward Island creator mashes style with technology in HiFi, his showpiece in the Studio North exhibit at the Interior Design Show in Toronto. The curvaceous cherry wood home stereo cabinet discreetly houses high-end components that stream music from any device, via Bluetooth. With its bulbous symmetrical speaker wings, arched shoulders and splayed Gumby legs (“my ode to the 1960s”), Racicot acknowledges that his sculptural creature may not be to everyone’s taste. “I’ve kind of flouted the flat surface,” he admits, citing U.S. furniture artist Wendell Castle’s influence on the motion implied in the piece. “The fluidity grew into it, like Castle’s sinuous big curves that seem to have movement even when sitting still.” HiFi’s cameo at IDS — and the Atlantic Craft Trade industry show in Halifax next weekend — is not to generate orders; the prototype alone took four solid months to execute and would be difficult to put into production. Instead, it’s a starting point for a conversation with anyone who would like to commission work. The piece’s big reveal this weekend “is not unlike going onstage,” adds Racicot, an actor-turned-furniture maker whose numerous credits include a leading role on Ken Finkleman’s *The Newsroom*. “I’ve always been a storyteller, and what I do now is an extension of that. I’m sort of creating a character, a creature.”