





Dynamic Design Duo

SPENDING TIME WITH DBO HOME // BY JESSICA JANE RUSSELL

the table—to the plate on top of the table," says Dana as Daniel, her partner, cuts generous slices of his freshly baked sourdough for afternoon tea. Daniel has baked the bread, jarred the jam, and built the polished wood table at the center of this kitchen. The food, or course, is presented on Dana's porcelain mugs and plates; asymmetrically curving forms, pressed with a tracery of honeycomb, and glazed in white and indigo blue. Husband

and wife design team Dana

Brandwein and Daniel Oats

WE ARE the farm to

are DBO Home—a partnership that is clearly more than the sum of its parts.

Here, so much of their world has been crafted or created by their own hand, bringing to mind the German concept of Gesamtkunstwerk, or total work of art. Their enviable live-work existence is housed in a converted turn of the century cow shed, tucked behind two silos and a barn in Sharon. The kitchen is the pivot-point of a series of rooms leading in opposite directions to their respective work spaces. In one direction, is Dana's ceramics studios, in the other is

the barn, where Daniel makes a myriad of things: fabricating furniture, building boats, and casting bronze.

Just over a decade ago, they were living in the West Village, and Daniel, an artist, was showing with 303 gallery in New York, working as

> LIFE'S WORK The Harry Ransom Center, a humanities research library and museum at The University of Texas at Austin, has acquired the com-

prehensive archive of Arthur Miller, once à Roxbury resident and one of America's most lauded playwrights (1915-2005).

PHOTO // ANTOINE BOOTZ

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an assistant to artist Robert

Gober, and designing toys.

Dana was over 20 years into

a career working at Elektra

records. As a production

manager, she worked with

StereoLab and Billy Bragg.

But contrary to the a life of

bands like Metallica, Pantera,



September 11th 2001 was

rock and roll, she was dreaming of being a designer

a turning point for Dana, and on the 12th she was registering for her first pottery class. This was the first step in what was to become a complete career transformation. A few years later, her first line of tableware was picked up by ABC Home at a trade show, followed by Bergdorf, Barneys, and West Elm. So, in 2004 Dana and Daniel bought three kilns, and moved full time to Sharon.

The balance of the DBO partnership extends from their design process to the materiality of their forms. The use of hand stitched leather on the



means "to hit' in Italian - and

"I love to work with people.

You can't do it in a vacuum,"

a tiny company, comprised

of Dana, Daniel, and studio

assistant Rice Evans, they

love to work with clients.

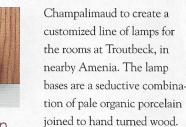
They partnered recently with

interior designer Alexandra

says Dana. While they remain

everything sounds better in

Italian..." says Dana.



They partner nationally with hospitality and retail such as ABC Carpet and Home and West Elm, as well as a long list of regional retailers, such as Privet House and Darren Winston booksellers. They may be hidden behind two silos on a quiet country road, but look hard enough, and you will be sure to find DBO Home.



jugs in their Remo collec-

tion was inspired by Daniel's

obsession with Norwegian

boat building, making refer-

ence to the leather covered

forms of their Battuto line was

Dana's idea brought to life by

Daniel's hand, when he began

bashing a lump of clay on the

worktable. The name Battuto

pays homage to the process. "It

oar handles. The faceted



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