

Curing a Philippe Starck Obsession With African Art, Plastic Toys



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Photos by Suzanne DeChillo/The New York Times

And they say the American Dream is dead! Not so, argues the *Times* profile of Claude Grunitzky, a young entrepreneur who left the "drunks and prostitutes and late-night arguments" in one cracked-out nabe for a **Philippe Starck-designed condo** just a stone's throw from the New York Stock Exchange. Of course, there's no better way to celebrate upward mobility than by embracing brand names: "an **Eames coffee table here, a Cindy Sherman print there, a signed Francis Bacon lithograph someplace else.**" as well as a Starck bathroom sink, a Starck sofa, and a Starck dining table that expands to seat 16. Textiles, sculptures, and photos hailing from Grunitzky's native Togo, Africa (and elsewhere on the continent) keep the space from looking like a Design Within Reach store, as do the "horse-shaped piñatas adorned with orange crepe paper in the bedroom, the **plastic Power Ranger figure** in the dining area, and the red plastic baby with an oversized head near the terrace." Have a look through the photos above.

· Domestic Luxury, Artfully Accented [NYT]