



TREASURE HUNTERS

■ **Annie Brahler**, 45, Owner & **Phil Black**, 46, Lead Carpenter, Euro Trash

→ It's Annie Brahler's passion—or "obsession," as she labels it—that has built her business. And, there's virtually nothing else like the 15-year-old import firm in the metro area. Among Brahler's unique services is the ability to supply vintage and antique finds (this 18th-century sofa is one of many) from France, Holland and Belgium to retailers nationwide. And, they're 100 percent *her* finds. "I got frostbite once because I was holding a mirror on top of our van while driving in Brussels; I couldn't move my hand, and I didn't care," Brahler laughs. A pioneer in the anti-reproductions movement, Brahler oversees a team of carpenters (headed by Phil Black), installers and seamstresses—as well as warehouses in Europe and Illinois. She also takes on extra projects that truly excite her, including elaborate design jobs spanning up to three years—and starring in her own TV show. Currently mid-filming, the end result will tout "trusting your own instincts, and not thinking you need a brand name to bring it into your house." Call it a foreign concept. — *Jill Manoff*