

# THE MODERN REPORT

BY TODD D. REEVES, *Isidro Dunbar Modern Interiors*



**W**e at ISIDRO DUNBAR MODERN INTERIORS have been selling leather furniture for more than 14 years, and we think that we have heard it all! People say that they do not want leather furniture because they burned the back of their legs when they got in their car after it had been sitting in the sun. Or, one time they fell asleep and their cheek stuck to the sofa. First thing, we don't sell that kind of leather, because well, it's really not leather.

In your car, the material covering your seats may have started out as a cow hide, but in order to stand up to direct sunlight and the temperature extremes, it was

highly processed to the point that some call it "pleather," as in plastic and leather combined. While often quite expensive, the leather that goes into cars will never be confused with what we use in our homes. As for the "sticky-cheek syndrome" that is usually caused by Naugahyde or some other synthetic or inferior material that should never be confused with full top grain leather. The fact is that, in order to keep prices down, manufacturers have used a broad range of materials that are designed to masquerade as leather.

You do get what you pay for. The good stuff — the leather furniture that we display

in our showrom — *breathes*. It cools to your touch in the summer and it warms to your touch in the winter. It breathes like your own skin because that's what a cow hide is — skin or epidermis. The very best and most exquisite leathers feel great because they are not overly processed. It's like fine diamonds or jewels in which the best ones come out of the ground, are cut and polished, and made ready for sale at premium prices. Did you know that you can also buy industrial cutting diamonds that are highly processed for a fraction of the cost of jewelry-grade diamonds? The finest leather is a natural product that is valuable because



"Clever" spring-motion chairs from American Leather.



ABOVE: "Malibu" sectional and round ottoman in white leather, filled with down for pure comfort, from American Leather.

RIGHT: Yellow leather bench in the Matinee collection by American Leather.



Pictured, at top of page, from left: "Matinee" chair in brown by Vladimir Kagan for American Leather; "Aries" swivel chair in black leather and chrome from Elite Leather. Above: "Berlin" recliner in white from Elite Leather.



of how little work it requires. The tannery preserves it, dyes it and dries it and ships it to the furniture manufacturer. Each hide is like a snowflake. No two are exactly the same, and each one will show grain patterns, wrinkles and other markings that are unique. Each is one of a kind.

Remember, leather wears *in*; it does not wear *out*. Good leather furniture is a significant investment, but it does last four times longer than upholstery fabric. In fact, leather is one of the few products you can buy that actually grows more beautiful over

time. Leather will develop a patina of use that most of us enjoy. With a good leather sofa, you will enjoy it when it's delivered, but you adore it ten years later.

If you want to know more about leather, feel free to drop by our store. We carry several leather-specific lines including American Leather and Elite Leather. We would love to show you products on our floor and, most importantly, we would be happy to show you *our* version of *modern* and hopefully plant new ideas in your head about interior fashion. ☺

Isidro Dunbar Modern Interiors is located at 36074 Emerald Coast Parkway in Destin (adjacent to Cox Pools). Hours: Monday - Friday, 10:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.; Saturday, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Phone (850) 269-1699.

LEFT, TOP: "Slink" chair in white leather with chrome legs by Rob Jones for American Leather; LEFT, BOTTOM: "Lovy" group by Rick Lee for American Leather includes chair, ottoman, sectional or sofa.