

Getting a Handle

Doorknobs should look good and feel good, too



TURN, TURN, TURN Gil Schafer searches for doorknobs at E. R. Butler & Company in SoHo. Mr. Schafer invests a lot of time in finding just the right hardware for each job.

GIL SCHAFER is a New York architect who specializes in historical renovations and “new houses that look like old houses,” he said. He is also a self-described “hardware nut” who invests a lot of time trying to find just the right hardware to complete each project.

But for him, there is one piece that stands out among all the hinges, pulls, latches and locks: the doorknob.

“Just like moldings tell a story about the architecture of a house in their proportion and shape, a doorknob can tell you about the character of a room,” said Mr. Schafer, 51, whose book, “The Great American House,” was published last month. “Different kinds of knobs say different things.”

At E. R. Butler & Company, a favorite hardware haunt across the street from his office in SoHo, he admired the gemlike GH Series crystal doorknob. “This is very similar to the ones I used in my apartment,” he said. “It fits your hand in a really nice way, and the facets make it easy to grab.”

He also liked the round crystal GB Series. “It’s a very simple, classic American knob,” he said.

Traditional GB Series crystal doorknob in black nickel; \$345 each, as shown, at E. R. Butler & Company, (212) 925-3565, erbutler.com



Traditional GH Series crystal doorknob in antique brass; \$366 each, as shown, at E. R. Butler & Company.

