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VERANDA



THE LAST WORD

TRUE CALLING

ZULU TELEPHONE WIRE ART



PHOTOGRAPHY BY PETER VITALE TEXT BY LINDA SHERBERT

When it comes to African telephone wire art, David Arment has a good connection. Telephone wire, you ask? Yes, that's what it is—colorful plastic-coated copper wire, originally stripped from old phone lines but now provided to Africans who weave baskets and other objects. Says Arment, a Dallas collector who began going on safaris in 1992, "I soon focused on the swirls, zigzags and myriad designs of this folk art form." Now he owns over 1,000 pieces and is coauthor of *Wired* with Marisa Fick-Jordaán of South Africa. At her shop in Durban, she dispenses wire to weavers, almost all Zulus, and markets their creations to cities such as Santa Fe, where Arment has a house with designer James Rimelspach of Wilson Associates. Proceeds from the book's sales at thewilsonfoundation.org support the design firm's charitable efforts, which include HIV/AIDS relief in Africa. In a Wi-Fi world, phone wire still conveys a vital message. □



Telephone wire-covered bottles, historic pot covers and round zigzag pot. To see James Rimelspach's house design, turn to page 68.

