



**Ralph Gorham uses salvaged wood beams, from which he may have to remove 500 nails, for his tables.**

**BELOW: Kent Scheer creates elegant tasting spoons from birch.**

that can weigh more than a ton, and from which upward of 500 nails may have to be removed, before the wood can be sawed into two-inch-thick planks. The boards are then painstakingly aligned to make symmetrical patterns of the wood's grain and knots. A variety of legs and pedestal or trestle bases is available; surfaces can be rough-hewn or smooth. Finally, the made-to-order tables can be stained or (Gorham's preference) sanded, sealed, waxed and left natural.



## city wood, country table

"When you do renovation," table maker Ralph Gorham says, "you rip this out, you rip that out, and sometimes you think, 'Hmm—that's a nice piece of wood.'" For more than 15 years Gorham was a general contractor in New York City, where he built the popular restaurants Coffee Shop and Live Bait. One day he stripped the paint off a beam he'd just extracted from a warehouse and discovered it was Mississippi heart pine, well over 150 years old. "It was gorgeous wood," he recalls. "I knew this was an extremely rare commodity." That gave Gorham an idea: He amassed a cache of antique mahogany, pine and douglas fir from jobs in Harlem, Manhattan and Brooklyn and began a company called Brooklyn Farm Tables, to offer customers "a piece of New York," as he puts it.

At his studio in Red Hook, Brooklyn, Gorham works with beams