

ED EOCOR

sunny
spaces

THE GOOD LIFE

Weekend Houses
You'll Love

Enchanting Gardens

Easy Outdoor
Decorating

Daniel Boulud:
The Perfect
Sandwich

3 Sensational
Summer Gifts



BE CAREFREE!

what's hot! shops



< PFEIFER STUDIO, ALBUQUERQUE

This online retailer of intriguing household treasures recently opened a shop in the Nob Hill neighborhood. Its own designs rule the roost, including felt cushions and pharmacy lamps, though the shop also accepts commissions for bespoke furniture and accessories. Many products result from partnerships with craftspeople such as silk weavers in India, whose fabrics become elegantly subdued pillows; a venerable New Zealand mill weaves the silky wool throws. 108 Morningside Dr. N.E., 505-217-3764; pfeiferstudio.com

V HOME, JAMES!, DALLAS

Texas shoppers can now enjoy what Hamptons habitués have been raving about for years—colorful, often irreverent home accessories. In addition to the Home, James! Collection, the Dallas store carries a bevy of goods exclusive to its location, thanks to the owners' intrepid global sourcing. Standouts include French table linens (why not have them embroidered with a lone star?), mock-tortoise serving trays, and vintage horn-handle knives fitted with new blades. 4514 Travis St., 214-528-0700; homejameseasthampton.com



MICHAEL ARAM, NEW YORK ^

Botanical-inspired metalwork and ceramics by Michael Aram shine in the American designer's first store. Built in the 1860s, the Romanesque Revival former stable has been converted by architect James Harb to showcase Aram's magical serving pieces, flatware, and furniture. Made by Indian artisans, his lily-pad platters, tongs shaped like silvery twigs, and other works are displayed against moody charcoal-color walls agleam with gilding and polished aluminum. 136 W. 18th St., 212-461-6903; michaelaram.com

LIVINSTONE, LOS ANGELES >

The California tradition of indoor-outdoor living takes center stage in this boutique, where stone, wood, and other textural organic materials are fashioned into furnishings and accessories for home and garden. Colossal travertine bathtubs and fountains are set amid slate cocktail tables, shell sconces, and marble basins. Vintage furniture is also on hand, such as a 1968 wood-and-rope harp chair by Jørgen Høvelskov. 937 N. La Cienega Blvd., 310-659-0600; livinstoneusa.com



WESTERN Interiors & DESIGN

Special Issue
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21 OUTDOOR
FURNITURE
FINDS

OUTDOOR
KITCHEN
Essentials

GARDENING
WITH GRASS

Expert BATH Design

JUNE/JULY 2007





Garden Tools

1 Six-piece Ergonomic Garden Tool Set from Brookstone, \$75. 2 Espresso Bead gardening gloves from Hable Construction, \$25. 3 Ivory watering can from SeaCloth, \$75. 4 Daniel one-gallon watering can from Ralph Lauren Home, \$95. 5 Jodi gardening gloves from Ralph Lauren Home, \$95. 6 NYBG red-oak-and-stainless-steel gardening fork from Shop in the Garden, The New York Botanical Garden, \$24. 7 Solid-cherry-and-stainless-steel Old Dutch trowel from Sneeboer USA, \$45. 8 Stainless-steel Japanese Farmer's Knife from Lee Valley Tools, \$27. 9 Leather-grip Bypass pruning shears from Garrett Wade, \$50. 10 Haws Slimcan pink watering can from Smith & Hawken, \$50. 11 Long Indian-slate Urth Planter from LivinStone, \$1,050. 12 Trowel from six-piece Gardening Basket set from SeaCloth, \$75. 13 Bronzed Mini watering can from Smith & Hawken, \$19.

FOR RESOURCES INFORMATION, GO TO WWW.WESTERNINTERIORS.COM. +

Garden

h Splash

Designs Soothe Our Senses



People captivated by organic water, the peace offered by this sensation of walking at high noon, then you will find trends in Westside water extraordinary artists who use high-tech to create artistic water features in the chi-California style. There are masters of the fantastic. There are those who bring the concepts my clients bring them into reality" says the founder of Aqua-Terra Studios, one of the West Coast's most innovative teams of contemporary artists team with water, and electronic media, and their paintings are too static for an aquarium is experienced exclusively in large-scale installations. Hills City Hall, the home

of Shaquille O'Neal) the smallest work available from the artist is a painting-sized aquarium that looks like a thoroughly modern and optically expansive window to the sea. Currently at work on a large architectural installation in Montecito and often off scuba diving to film his underwater environments, you can draw inspiration from Mr. Bilow's passion for nature and take a virtual dive at www.aquaterastudios.com.

Water is equally stunning in its more simple elemental form, and perhaps no one understands that better Olivier Morange of LivinStone. He has a knack for bringing classic functional forms to life in present, minimalist style without losing the historical values of design and elegance, and his medium is rare stone: big, gorgeous, slabs of it. His unique design sensibility embraces clean lines and a deep respect for nature and natural forms amid quiet elegance. Much of Mr. Morange's work pays homage to the California and Australian outdoor lifestyle, and many of the sculptural pieces in his showroom involve water. If you dream of smooth sensual sinks carved from translucent white onyx,



Photo by John Descendis



sculptural vessels and fountains designed for Zen gardens, and bathtubs carved from a single piece of CAPRI limestone, then LivinStone is your Mecca. Their specialty is creating interior and exterior environments that balance utilitarian function with the spa-like harmony of nature to suit a particular client or special space. The showroom is located in the heart of the Los Angeles design district at 937 N. La Cienega Boulevard and can be previewed at www.livinstoneusa.com.

www.WestsideToday.com

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\$25 Million? I'll Take It!
The Luxe Condo Boom

BY MARK LACTER



FORDBRADY

Flavors natural materials will be charmed by the capiz shell, amber, and ebony of Christopher Soja's sconces and chandeliers. » 8600 Venice Blvd., Culver City, 310-838-1959 or demozdesigngallery.com.

Environment Furniture

The wood tables, beds, chairs, desks, and armoires from this L.A. company are new, yet they share the patina of a common past. All were created using peroba rosa wood reclaimed



GOTTA HAVE IT

Sweet Dreams

It looks like something you might see floating down the Yangtze, but the abaca and steel Voyage bed by Kenneth Cobonpue is meant to help you drift off to sleep. The outdoor version is fashioned with synthetic webbing. » At Twentieth.

from decades-old buildings in Brazil and sustainably harvested mahogany from Indonesia. The company's in-house designer, Thomas Bina, has come up with seemingly endless combinations of blocks and strips to form graphic patchwork and mosaic patterns of the recycled wood's weathered grays, browns, golds, and pinks. » H.D. Buttercup, 3225 Helms Ave., L.A., 310-945-5458; South Coast Plaza, 3333 Bear St., Costa Mesa, 714-557-3100; or environment-furniture.com.

FordBrady

Located near Chinatown in the revamped Kim Sing Theatre, this fledgling showroom spotlights the wealth of modern furniture and lighting that owners Willard Ford and John Brady have discovered in Asia. The stable of talent, expected to expand over time, currently features 17 designers working in five countries. Singh Itrachotoo of Thailand transforms salvaged teak into architectonic chairs and benches. New York-based Akemi Tanaka designs ingenious table-benches that sacrifice neither form nor function. Lighting fixtures made from silkworm cocoons and minimalist aluminum-and-carbon-fiber tables finished in automotive paint complete the selection. » 720 N. Figueroa St., downtown, 213-620-1066 or fordbrady.com.

LivingStone

If the furnishings here are any indication, we may be entering a new Stone Age, in which honed limestone and chiseled slate are the only materials needed to make handsome indoor-outdoor tables, benches, planters, and fountains. The natural colors and patterns of stone from India, Brazil, and Portugal are highlighted in the speckled gray Ostrich table and the creamy white Womb bathtub. Onyx accessories include vessel sinks, lamps, and candleholders. » 937 N. La Cienega Blvd., L.A., 310-659-0600 or livingstoneusa.com.

Moss

Hoping to expand their trendsetting approach to design as art, New Yorkers Murray Moss and Franklin Getchell single out large one-offs and limited-edition pieces in a gallery-like L.A. space they opened in August. Initial offerings include clay furniture and a fire-sculpted (read charred with a blowtorch) 1938 Steinway baby grand by Dutch designer Martin Baas, chairs fashioned from stuffed animals by Brazilians Fernando and Humberto Campana, and eight-foot-tall chandeliers twinkling with LED lights and Swarovski crystals by Austrian Georg Baldele. Except for jewelry and watches, the smaller objects so popular in SoHo



didn't make the cross-country trip. » 8444 Melrose Ave., L.A., 323-866-5260 or mossonline.com.

Plushpod

What began seven years ago as an Internet-only resource for the latest and liveliest contemporary design has spawned a well-stocked showroom in Los Angeles. When digital images won't suffice, this is where you can see—and touch—work by some of today's most innovative designers. On a recent visit, the goods included a hot pink circular sectional sofa by Karim Rashid, milk bottle pendant lights by Droog Design, and plush carpets of flower-shaped felt by Tord Boontje. Other cool items designed for the kitchen, the bathroom, and the kids are on display as well. » 8211 W. 3rd St., L.A., 323-951-0748 or plushpod.com.

Rezon8 Living

The stated mission of this recent addition to the Valley is "the de-snobification of great design," and that pretty much says it all. Among the streamlined silhouettes

are various knockoffs of midcentury masterpieces (think Barcelona chair and Noguchi table) that will appeal to home owners who can't afford the real McCoy. The 10,000-square-foot warehouse space is filled with color-coordinated IKEA-like vignettes that make savvy use of architecture and design books as accessories. » 7900 Haskell Ave., Van Nuys, 818-728-1800 or rezon8living.com.

Twentieth

The floor lamp shaped like a life-size black horse with a shade on its head should tip you off that Stefan Lawrence doesn't play it safe in his showroom. Browse among furniture, lighting, and accessories by headline-making designers such as Zaha Hadid, whose Aqua table looks like three enormous frozen droplets of liquid. A few L.A.-based names are part of the international roster, including Elizabeth Paige Smith, Reza Feiz, and Lush Life. The store's own line, Twentieth Modern, features a bent-Lucite chair and translucent wall sconces with a ghostly glow. » 8057 Beverly Blvd., L.A., 323-904-1200 or twentieth.net. ■

ASK THE EXPERT

Kelly Wearstler



Current must-have for the home? Wireless capabilities so that any room in the house can serve as an office. What's so five minutes ago? All those design reality shows except for *Top Design* [on which she's a judge]. The bad ones, where they're re-covering a sofa with old socks. What's always worth a splurge? Art—great oil paintings and lithographs. Secret source? Auction catalogs. Anyone can go online to wrightauction.com, [Bonhams & Butterfields, Christie's, or Sotheby's. Less or more? It depends on the project. But less always looks like you're more confident. » KWID, 760 N. La Cienega Blvd., West Hollywood, 323-951-7454 or kwid.com.