

luxe

INTERIORS+DESIGN®



\$ 9.95 A SANDOW PUBLICATION | LUXE SOURCE
06>
0 71486 03365 3
MAY/JUNE 2023 | DISPLAY UNTIL 07/10/2023

Imagination Unbound

LUXE CHATS WITH CREATIVES FROM AROUND THE GLOBE WHO ARE BREATHING NEW LIFE INTO TRADITIONAL CRAFT.

PRODUCED BY KATHRYN GIVEN



Klove Studio

Prateek Jain and Gautam Seth, co-founders of New Delhi's Klove Studio, are upending

the way modern lighting is produced in India with their larger than life pieces. While the dynamic duo are experimenting with size, scale and materials, their designs continue to pay homage to the artistic customs and practices that surround them at home.

What was the vision for your latest collection? Our Totems Over Time series celebrates an older way of living and, specifically, how civilizations have left their mark on society with references to ancient symbols and motifs. We wanted to achieve a harmonious balance between geometry and symmetry with bright totems devoted to abundance, vision, beauty and protection. **Talk to us about the materials.** These nearly 10-foot-tall pieces incorporate metal and handblown glass, a centuries-old technique that supports local artisans in India. We believe in slow design, conscious craftsmanship and dreaming up fantastical ideas that take shape by working with dedicated makers. **Where do you find inspiration?** From different cultures around the world, but especially in New Delhi where there is such a rich craft legacy. Good design makes life better on every level. klovestudio.com



LagunaB

The iconic Venetian glassware company founded by the late Marie Brandolini is heralding in a second chapter under the leadership of her son, Marcantonio Brandolini d'Adda. As ceo and creative director, his vision includes investing in projects that support a range of initiatives, like the design community at large, the environment and the city of Venice.

How are you thinking differently at LagunaB? When my mother moved from Paris to Venice, glassmaking was a way of expressing her creativity. Today, we are releasing more limited-edition pieces but still honoring her vision. Sustainability is also top of mind for us with a new high-energy production facility that allows for more energy efficient manufacturing, in addition to a longstanding partnership with Green Future Project to offset our CO2 emissions. **What about the next generation?** We have teamed up with the Pilchuck Glass School in Washington to establish Autonomia, an international glass artist exchange program in Murano. Face-to-face interaction is also important to me, so we have a multifunctional brick and mortar space in the works. **Anything else?** Alongside We Are Venice, we recently introduced Vital, which aims to enhance the natural capital of the Venetian Lagoon. Without this important waterway, our company and city would not exist. lagunab.com

MARCANTONIO BRANDOLINI D'ADDA PORTRAIT: ALESSANDRO TREVISAN, CONSOLE PHOTO: JOSEPH KRAMM / JARR STUDIOS FOR LES ATELIERS COURBET, ALL OTHER PHOTOS: COURTESY RESPECTIVE COMPANIES.



Hamza Kadiri

Casablanca-based master woodworker Hamza Kadiri hails from a long line of makers who share a deep reverence for their materials, and he is no exception. Each piece of wood sourced for his new sculptural furniture collection was

chosen for its singularity, essence and inherent beauty. Kadiri's expertise of rare, precious varieties of wood honors natural grains and unique patterns for a one-of-a-kind result.

When did you begin working with wood? I'll never forget the moment I entered my uncle's workshop at the age of seven. He was one of the most respected woodworkers in the Medina of Fez. I still remember the smell, the dry air and watching each artisans' slow movements. It was love at first sight. **Tell us about your latest collection.** As an artist, I listen to the wood—sometimes for months at a stretch. The unique forms of a plank and veins in the wood give off a particular emotion. These inspire me with original ideas, although some may be a little crazy. My six new pieces—side tables, credenzas, a bench and an armoire—are a testament to this, including the Royal Ebony credenza (shown). **What's next?** Adding exciting new lighting designs to my collection with Les Ateliers Courbet. ateliercourbet.com





Toast

Established in a Wales farmhouse more than 25 years ago, the clothing company Toast has grown its offering to include exquisite homewares produced by artisans, weavers and mills around the world. Despite its evolution, the brand's values remain steadfast: champion a slower pace and more thoughtful way of life. CEO Suzie de Rohan Willner elaborates on the brand's mission.

What makers do you work with? We search around the world for artisans who demonstrate specialist skills and techniques. Our hope is to provide a platform for their work to be celebrated and their story to be told in an authentic way. We want to help preserve traditional techniques that otherwise may be in danger of dying out, like this glazed terra-cotta waterpot handmade in Bristol (shown) that is based on a 16th century design. **Why does craft have an enduring appeal?** There is a growing audience who wants a more emotional connection to the objects in their home and to the person behind their creation. An increased awareness of our environment and a rejection of "mass" has meant we are choosing to buy less and selecting long lasting and meaningful objects. The recently launched Toast Renewed provides an iteration of this idea. It's a unique collection of creatively repaired, one-of-a-kind pieces that have been given a new lease on life, increasing their longevity and progressing our circular approach to reducing waste. **Where do you find inspiration?** In stillness. It's about being with people and things that bring joy and make you slow down. us.toa.st



Ecrú

Founded by three childhood friends raised in Kuwait, lifestyle brand Ecrú draws upon the ethos and cultures of Arab and Indian hospitality for inspiration. With a dazzling shopfront in Jaipur, Ecrú collaborates with craftspeople in India, Syria, Lebanon and Sri Lanka who specialize in textiles, woodworking, glass, ceramics and metalwork. Creative Director Nur Kaouji discusses the company's roots.

How did Ecrú start? Growing up (with co-founders Noor Al-Sabah and Hussah Al Tamimi) in Kuwait, we were surrounded by expats, particularly Arab and South Asian families. We were raised with an emphasis on the importance of hospitality and tradition, including sharing meals with loved ones. Our desire to carry on these rituals led us to launch Ecrú, a brand that comprises beautiful handmade objects that elevate these interactions. **Talk to us about your homewares.** What excites us is the incredible legacy of craft around the world. We get to work with artists who keep traditions like block printing and metalwork alive. At Ecrú, we are always looking to expand our artisan directory and I'm constantly on the hunt for inspiring people. **How can design make a positive impact on our lives?** Life has a way of throwing things at you, sometimes turning things upside down. One of our greatest salvages is nature and through nature, design. ecruonline.in

PHOTOS: COURTESY RESPECTIVE BRANDS.



Sanayi313

Brothers Enis and Amir Karavil helm the interdisciplinary design brand Sanayi313 in Istanbul, where they have their hands in a number of exciting initiatives: a retail store, design studio, canteen, bi-annual magazine, atelier for unique projects and a newly launched furniture line that promotes their mantra, “move forward to the future with respect to the past.”

Why is it important to champion craft today? I prefer working with local craftsmen because what they create is always unique, and in the era of non-stop production this is a differentiator. That human touch is essential because it gives a soul and special language to the work. **Talk to us about your new furniture pieces.** The Oblong Collection consists of solid

maple burl and burned oak wood designs defined by massive, bulky forms and rounded corners, which echoes our “maximalist expressions in minimalist details” approach. Comprising stools, consoles, low coffee tables, side tables, and a dining table, the collection is made by hand in Istanbul, adhering to the city’s artisanal traditions where woodworking dates back thousands of years. **It must be inspiring to be surrounded by so much history.** Turkey’s location is at the crossroads of East and West, the vast lands once dominated by the Ottomans and home to many different civilizations with a rich legacy of craft since ancient times. These age-old traditions and techniques are still being practiced and lauded in many areas, but I believe new ideas come from studying the past. The solutions are there, you just need to reinvent them to create something inspiring. sanayi313.com



Jomo Tariku

For Virginia-based, Ethiopian American industrial designer Jomo Tariku, African culture has always played a role in what he creates. As an advocate for change, Tariku co-founded BADG (Black Artists and Designers Guild) and continues to help move the needle forward

for global design and the contemporary interpretation of American craft. The trailblazing talent’s work has even landed in major institutions including the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Where did you learn to love design? Our home in Ethiopia was filled with beautiful objects. My dad was an avid collector of interesting pieces from Africa and around the world. During summer break, I would sketch these objects not knowing it would eventually lead to a career in design. **How do African traditions play into your work?** I did my undergraduate thesis on creating a modern line of African furniture and I have never wavered from that even though it has not been easy. Design is supposed to be a global language but until recently you would be hard pressed to find a contemporary African design by a Black designer. I am always referencing my heritage. Even the inspiration for my Nyala chair (shown) are the horns of shy, an elusive mountain antelope from the Bale Mountains in Ethiopia. jomofurniture.com



JOMO TARIKU HEADSHOT: GEDYION KIFLE, NYALA CHAIR PHOTO: JULIA LEHMAN PHOTOGRAPHY, OTHER PHOTOS: COURTESY SANAYI313.