

NEWS & NOTES



CALIFORNIA COOL

THE GROOVYEST NEW DESIGN SHOPS IN LA

By STACEY STUKIN

AS the fashion world continues to decamp to Los Angeles—first Hedi Slimane, now Tom Ford's new \$53 million Beverly Hills mansion—home-design retailers are following suit with their own West Coast invasion. They're coming from New York, London and Paris to embrace Los Angeles' entertaining-at-home lifestyle—and their own California dreaming.

LECLICHAIR, 240 N. Robertson Blvd., Leclicclair.com
Leading the LA charge is beloved Parisian retailer Leclicclair. Drawing from its fashion roots, the brand's just-opened foray into West Hollywood design district showcases one-of-a-kind decorative arts in a three-story French bohemian-style house. "We're here to seduce our clients with exclusive pieces and custom creations meant for interior designers and homeowners who have it all and who have seen it all," says Mely Hadida Shahari, who launched the store with her parents, Leclicclair founder Martine and Armand Hadida. The treasures inside this residence-stash shop include museum-quality furniture by Zaha Hadid, Belgian Brutalist pieces from the 60s and '70s, and an exclusive collection of French lighting and furniture—adding delight and form to the whimsy.

CONSORT DESIGN, 608 Melrose Ave., Consort-Design.com
Matt Sanders and Brandon Quattrone, former New Yorkers who landed in LA a few years ago, used their interior-design chops to transform this Melrose storefront into a bold, vibrant destination that makes you want to sit down and stay awhile (if not move right in). As cozy as a living room and sophisticated enough to inspire, the shop embraces Los Angeles' eclectic mix with a colorful palette of art, lighting, tabletop objects and customizable furnishings.

TOM DIXON, 8850 Washington Blvd., Suite 101, Culver City, TomDixon.net
"There's a whole new buzz going on about LA," says London-based product designer Tom Dixon, renowned for the glamour and shine of his lighting collections. That buzz drew him all the way from the UK to Culver City's newest design hub, the Platform, where he recently opened a 27,000-square-foot flagship. And shiny it is, with gobs of marble and soaring ceilings. He collaborated (and shares the space) with California's newest Borissov's Curve boutique. Dixon, it seems, is ready for his close-up.

MICHAEL ARAM, 52 N. Robertson Blvd., MichaelAram.com
While designer Michael Aram isn't personally relocated to LA—"I'm a New Yorker to the core," he tells Alexa—his spacious new 6,000-square-foot store offers the perfect go-to-frame home for his organic pieces: a trio of tabletop vases, lighting, and a new beverage tray (next to mention a margarita in the front window draped in a train of dinner plates). There's also plenty of space to showcase his larger sculptures, which he says resonate especially with his left-coast customers.

IDV, 8850 Washington Blvd., Suite 101, Culver City, IandDeVenice.com
IandDe has been designing its outdoor furniture for more than 20 years, so he knows that stylish LA homes hinge on alfresco living. His latest IDV outpost, at the Platform in Culver City (yes, Tom Dixon adjacent), showcases his new California Gold collection. Whether you're lounging on a lazy Sunday or conducting every important business in the sunshine, these bright, made-in-LA furnishings are built for lasting in comfort.



Bernabe Fornasetti
"The Gioiello chair, photographing at Leclicclair, inspired me to create a new collection of objects," says Fornasetti.

Tom Dixon
"I'm excited to be part of the Platform project in Culver City. It's a great opportunity to showcase my work in a new setting."

Michael Aram
"I'm excited to be part of the Platform project in Culver City. It's a great opportunity to showcase my work in a new setting."

HAUTE SEAT

Alonso selects handsome décor (like this PLANEFurniture Arrowhead chair, \$4,300 at HammelAndSpear.com) for hotels around the globe.



4 REASONS WE'RE OBSESSED WITH DESIGNER ROMAN ALONSO

By ALEV AKTAR

AS a founding partner of LA design collective Commune, Roman Alonso is redefining eclectic West Coast cool. Mixing periods and styles, the studio's diverse projects include LA's wildly popular Ace Downtown hotel, San Francisco's new Tartine Manufacturing restaurant, the soon-to-open Caldera House condo-hotel and ski lodge in Jackson Hole, Wyo., and a home line with West Elm. It's no surprise that the 50-year-old Caracas, Venezuela-born Alonso accepted the Cooper Hewitt National Design Award for Interior Design on behalf of his influential firm last year. Here are four reasons he rocks.

1 In this era of mass-produced goods, he has a penchant for the hand-made. Commune collaborates with artists and artisans to create unique lighting, furniture, flooring, objects and textiles. Block-printed floor pillows by LA-based Gregory Parkinson are among the favorites in the studio's home line. "These are the perfect size and weight," Alonso tells Alexa. "I have no idea what he fills them with, but they are perfect."

2 Alonso brings a global-nomad sensibility to his projects. The designer finds inspiration and beauty on his frequent trips to Tokyo, Panama City, Berlin, Paris and beyond. His Tartine Manufacturing project (located adjacent to Heath Ceramics, another Commune effort in SF) borrows from Danish cafes, Japanese teahouses and alpine lodges. That means a warm, unfussy vibe with Douglas fir chairs and tables, Heath tiles and Noguchi lamps.

3 He loathes excess and waste. Super-sized houses for one or two inhabitants are not his style. His aesthetic is simple and functional, just like Michael Boyl's PLANEFurniture "Arrowhead" lounge chair, which Alonso used at the Durham Hotel in North Carolina and the Ace hotel in Downtown LA. "This chair is perfect in scale and can sit literally in any room," he says.

4 Alonso seeks things with a soul. Antique, vintage or brand new. As long as they have character and patina, Alonso is onboard. His personal 80's brass hatbox, passed down by his mother, has emotional heft. So does his favorite paperweight, an oxidized bronze Goose Egg by New York jewelry and homewares designer Ted Marching for E.K. Butler & Co. "To have and to hold," says Alonso. "Few things feel this good in your hand."

HOME HIP HOME

Marlow Goods' new leather décor line



THE word "Brooklyn" is now synonymous with hip—and that's largely thanks to Andrew Talrow and Kate Huling. The couple launched Diner (the seminal eatery tucked under the Williamsburg Bridge) nearly two decades ago, followed soon by the restaurant Marlow & Sons and the wildly popular Wythe Hotel. In 2015 they shifted focus, opening Marlow Goods in the East Village. Many of the leather accessories in the city boutique are designed by Huling and crafted from the hides of the upstate cows served in the pair's restaurants. This year the brand is expanding into home goods, introducing sturdy and stylish leather throws, pillows and benches—perfect examples of the couple's farm-to-home ethos.

David Kaufman