

# Communal LIVING

L.A.'S HOTTEST  
DESIGNERS TAKE  
ON BRITISH COOL.

By Pilar Viladas

California style is almost synonymous these days with **Commune Design**, the Los Angeles collective behind the interiors of two Ace Hotels, houses from Hollywood to Ojai, the Ammo restaurant, and even the Greenroom at last year's Academy Awards (a collaboration with Best Actress winner Julianne Moore). What happens when the group's eclectic, hand-crafted glamour (its influences are as disparate as Bedouin tribes and *The Whole Earth Catalog*) meets

quintessentially British? A 12-piece furniture collection for George Smith that includes Turkish-inspired low seating, a mod take on the classic Chesterfield sofa, and the two-seater Wing sofa with modern cylindrical legs (\$14,837 AS SHOWN, GEORGESMITH.COM.)

**TRIPLE THREAT**  
From top: Commune founders Steven Johanknecht, Roman Alfonso, and Pamela Shamshiri; the Ace Hotel Palm Springs; the Wing sofa.



## TABLE TALK

*A cheeky tweak enlivens a classic technique.*

I've seen countless tables of cerused (limed) oak, a favorite finish of Jean-Michel Frank, but the glossy persimmon of the **Liz O'Brien Editions** Arabesque Card Table (\$8,200, MADE TO ORDER) takes the method to a new level of chic—and cheek. No surprise, given O'Brien's day job: She's a top Manhattan dealer of 20th-century design greats such as Samuel Marx, Frances Elkins, and Line Vautrin. LIZOBRIEN.COM

## He's Got GAME

*A top British designer displays his winning hand at wallpaper.*

One wall of Paul Smith's Albemarle Street shop in London is covered with dominoes, so maybe it was only a matter of time before this: a line of wallpaper featuring gaming gear—dominoes, dice, and playing cards. Smith's collaboration with textile company **Maharam** (this is its first foray into the category) combines advanced digital printing techniques with durable materials and features an appropriately played-out finish. MAHARAM.COM



**DEALER'S CHOICE**  
Smith's playing card wallpaper (\$125 PER ROLL).

## Turning JAPANESE

A MASTER OF  
BRICOLAGE GOES  
THE WAY OF TEA

"Tom Sachs: Tea Ceremony," which opens March 23 at New York's **Noguchi Museum** in celebration of its 30th anniversary, will be the first show devoted to an artist other than the museum's founder, sculptor Isamu Noguchi. The choice is significant, and not as odd as it sounds. Sachs, who is famous for his droll recreations of



**SACHS APPEAL**  
*Chabako* (tea utensils), a sculpture from "Tea Ceremony."

mundane objects often branded with luxury logos (such as his Prada toilet made of cardboard), has long been fascinated by *chanoyu*, the Japanese tea ceremony, which played a cameo in his typically ambitious 2012 show "Space Program: Mars." Sachs's site-specific Noguchi installation will include a tea house in a garden, complete with such traditional accoutrements as whisks and bowls—all made in Sachs's studio. And, for the lucky winners of a public lottery, the artist himself will host a series of tea ceremonies. NOGUCHI.ORG

MISHA GRAVENOR (COMMUNE); COURTESY LIZ O'BRIEN (TABLE); SPENCER LOWELL (ACE HOTEL); COURTESY GEORGE SMITH (SOFA); GENEVIEVE HANSON (SACHS SCULPTURE)