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Interiors

CHICAGO



BEST IN DESIGN

CHICAGO'S BRIGHTEST STARS

FASHION HOUSE! SEAMLESS BLENDS OF STYLE & DECOR
FAB FIVE: A PREVIEW OF THE CHICAGO ARCHITECTURE BIENNIAL
INSIDE SCOOP: ART BASEL, DESIGN MIAMI & BOLOGNA TILE FAIR
LEO DESIGNS, JAMESTHOMAS & TOM STRINGER'S INTERIOR REVAMPS



BEST FURNITURE PIECE// MJ WRITING DESK

Industrial details and natural materials combine in this classically refined writing desk that is designed by Frank Ponterio and manufactured by Avrett. Completely customizable, the bronze frame with slightly flared legs supports a vellum-wrapped top and can be sized to any specification. The design was inspired by Ponterio's interest in Chicago's architectural and industrial roots. He worked closely with the craftsmen at Avrett, who are experts in hand-forged iron and steelwork, to fine-tune the design so that it could be customized with brass, wrought iron or bronze. Each piece comes stamped with a hallmark logo bearing both the Frank Ponterio and Avrett logos. **What We Love:** The pairing of natural and exotic materials with hand-forged bronze metalwork makes for a design that is both masculine and elegant. *To the trade, John Rosselli & Associates, The Merchandise Mart, Suite 6-158, johnrosselli.com*

BEST IN DESIGN
PRODUCTS
& PIECES



BEST LIGHTING// MOLEKUL CHANDELIER

Trevor O'Neil launched his new lighting collection, Molekul, this past spring, which was inspired by a wooden star installation he created more than a decade ago. The Molekul series takes a similar shape but is lit up from the inside with LED bulbs. Light is channeled in randomized space and distance from its source via chrome steel "atoms" which are connected to the core by acrylic rods covered in rubber. The result? A starry cluster of ambient light. O'Neil's latest concept involves a larger scale and customization options, as there is no limit to how many "atoms" can be added or in what configuration. The pieces are built one at a time in his studio and are only limited by a client's space restrictions and lighting needs.

What We Love: Modern style is smartly paired with new technology that looks ethereal and elegant. \$3,800 (as shown with eight atoms), Trevor O'Neil Art and Design, 2548 W. Lake St., trevoroneil.com

BEST RUGS// MARAIS RUG BY AIMEE NEMECKAY AT SAPERE ATELIER

Because the Fredman Design Group saw the need for sophisticated rugs that made a statement, Sapere Atelier was born. Lead designer Aimee Nemeckay's paintings and watercolors are translated into the collection's flat-weave rugs. The latest addition to the collection is the Marais rug, which is in saturated tones of blue and a pattern that is a fresh twist on a classic chevron. The inspiration for the collection came after FDG traveled to the Far East and experienced the rug-making process, meeting the weavers and seeing the fibers being dyed. After several experiments conducted while working closely with Oscar Tatossian of Oscar Isberian Rugs, FDG debuted this beautiful, soft silk rug: a high-quality product with a high-impact in any room. **What We Love:** The Marais rug is truly an artwork for the floor and is loyal to the ancient, intricate process of handweaving and hand-dyeing rugs in India and Turkey. \$3,600 for 5 feet by 8 feet rug, Fredman Design Group, 350 W. Erie St., 350west.com



MARAIS RUG PHOTO BY ERIC HAUSSMAN