



Artisans at Larson-Juhl's Senelar facility apprentice for five years to become water gilders, considered the highest level of craftsmanship.



Each sheet of gold or metal leaf is applied contiguously with a slight overlap, leaving a mark that distinguishes handcrafted water-gilded frames from all others.

GILDED AGE

Focused on achieving the highest levels of quality and exclusivity, Larson-Juhl creates its water-gilded frames using an eight-step process, each requiring the attention of exceedingly skilled craftsmen. To start, each plank of FSC-certified lumber is milled down to shape and covered with eight to 10 coats of liquid gesso, allowing for a smoother surface on which to apply intricate ornamentation, molded from a composite substance containing resin. Liquid clay covers the embossed plank and, when wet with a water-dipped brush, serves as the glue for delicate gold- and silver-colored metal leaves (left), each applied separately in succession. Those seeking the highest level of luxury can custom order a frame from Larson-Juhl's Concerto collection, a water-gilded line adorned in 22-karat-gold or 12-karat-white-gold leaf. "We haven't changed anything about the materials or the water-gilding process since Senelar opened 100 years ago," Steve McKenzie says.

radar.

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INTERNATIONAL CRAFT



When Larson-Juhl sought to fuse art and functionality in their high-end custom frames, they turned to Europe—specifically, Senelar, a family-owned frame-making atelier in northern France they acquired 15 years ago. "Their level of artisanship was exquisite," says Steve McKenzie, CEO and president of Larson-Juhl. What proved most valuable to Larson-Juhl was Senelar's penchant for the traditional art of water gilding, a process developed during the Renaissance, in which less-than-paper-thin sheets of gold are expertly applied by hand to a dampened clay-covered embossed frame. This time-honored technique is still performed at the venerable French atelier, often by second- and third-generation gilders, while respecting 21st-century values. "Senelar became the company's first FSC-certified manufacturing facility in 2009," McKenzie says. "An important part of our process is making sure what we're doing is efficient and healthy for the environment." larsonjuhl.com



SEATTLE
ART

IN TRANSITION

Because the Musée National Picasso in Paris recently closed for renovations, the museum curators have organized a global tour comprising more than 150 of the Spaniard's works. *Picasso: Masterpieces from the Musée National Picasso, Paris*—appearing at the Seattle Art Museum Downtown October 8 through January 17—spans the artist's entire career and explores the evolution of his form and subject matter. seattleartmuseum.org; 206.654.3100



NATIONAL
BOOK

TOUR DE FORCE

Rediscover the country's most iconic homes in *Living Architecture* (Assouline, \$75) by Dominique Browning and Lucy Gilmour. Top fine-art photographers offer a modern perspective on seminal structures like Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater and Mies van der Rohe's Farnsworth House—the latter of which Jason Schmidt painstakingly shot under a blanket of snow for a fresh take on a classic. shopassouline.com



INTERNATIONAL
PRODUCT

NEW WORLD WEAVERS

The latest from Alessi includes the Campana brothers' Peneira (meaning "sieve" in Portuguese) collection of steel mesh baskets. The deft manipulation of basic materials, a signature of the Brazilian duo, results in delicate yet hardy sculptures, softened by a natural fiber trim. alessi.com

LOS ANGELES
DESIGN

MODERN MAKEOVER

Long a second home to Hollywood insiders, the Four Seasons Hotel Los Angeles at Beverly Hills recently underwent a \$33 million renovation. Aiming to bring the traditional interiors into the 21st century while embracing the area's history, Santa Barbara designer Sue Firestone targeted all guestrooms, as well as the Windows Lounge. Other highlights include the new outdoor fitness center and Culina, Modern Italian, an indoor-outdoor restaurant featuring an earthy yet luxe aesthetic by EDG Interior Architecture + Design. fourseasons.com/losangeles; 310.273.2222



ART PHOTO: PABLO PICASSO, *PORTRAIT OF OLGA IN AN ARMCHAIR*, 1918. COURTESY OF MUSÉE NATIONAL PICASSO, PARIS. © 2010 ESTATE OF PABLO PICASSO / ARTISTS RIGHTS SOCIETY (ARS), NEW YORK. HOME PHOTO: KAUFMANN HOUSE BY RICHARD NEUTRA, 1946. PHOTOGRAPHED BY RAYMOND MEIER. BASKETS PHOTO: COURTESY OF ALESSI. HOTEL PHOTO: COURTESY OF FOUR SEASONS HOTEL LOS ANGELES AT BEVERLY HILLS.



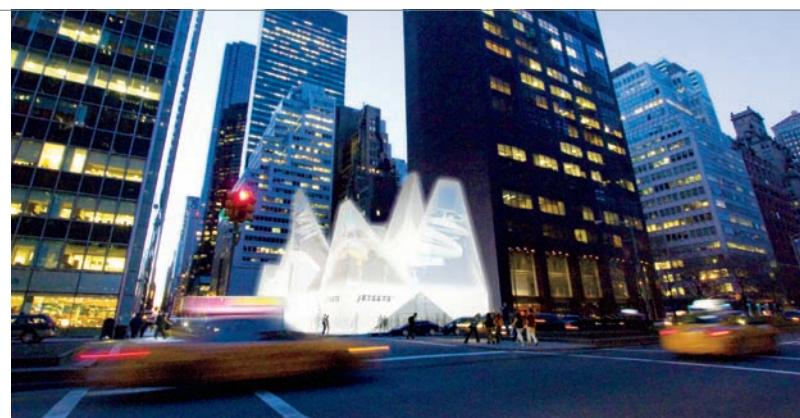
LOS ANGELES

PRODUCT

FADE TO BLACK

J. Robert Scott's latest debut, Ombré, has been three years in the making, and it lives up to the brand's stellar reputation for intriguing, exotic veneers. Inspired by watercolors, company founder and president Sally Sirkin Lewis developed the shaded finishing technique for wood veneers, available in four hues. The patent-pending method has been applied to luxury furnishings, like the company's Cabriole Cabinet and the Adelphi Tea Table (left), shown in a wenge veneer with an Ombré Twilight finish.

jrobertscott.com; 877.207.5130

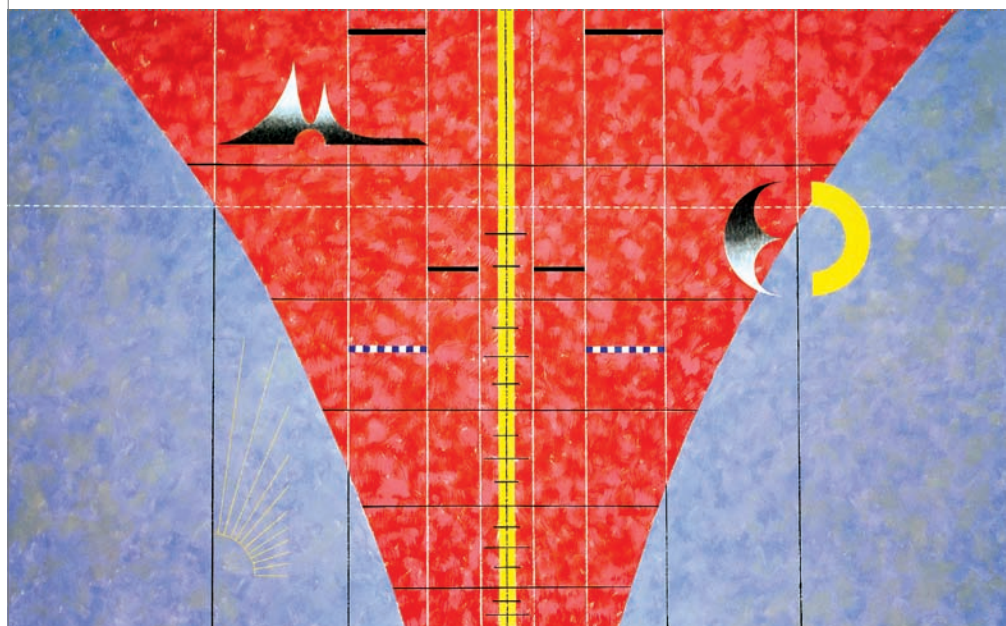


NEW YORK

ARCHITECTURE

DEEP FREEZE

Dismayed by the dozens of stalled construction projects around the Big Apple, Jeffrey Holmes thought of a cool solution. The New York principal of international architecture firm Woods Bagot proposed filling vacant sites with "icebergs," recyclable structures that could be used for retail or entertainment purposes until the original project resumed. Thus far, the response from the building community has been titanic. As of press time, no icebergs had been commissioned, but Woods Bagot has been in talks with several developers and brands. Stay tuned. *woodsbagot.com*



DENVER

ART

LAST IMPRESSIONS

Austrian artist, designer and architect Herbert Bayer took a circuitous route to Aspen in 1946, but the Bauhaus member quickly made an impression on his newfound home, building and restoring several area structures. Yet Bayer left another legacy in Colorado as well: his art. *A Visual Alphabet: Herbert Bayer's Anthology Paintings*, at the Denver Art Museum, examines several works completed within the final decade of his career. In contrast to Bayer's earlier rational compositions, these convey a shift toward the fantastic. On view through spring. *denverartmuseum.org; 720.865.5000*

MIAMI BEACH

ARCHITECTURE

CONCERT OF TALENTS

Miami's newest structural gem resulted from a meeting of the minds: legendary architect Frank Gehry collaborated closely with Michael Tilson Thomas, New World Symphony founder and artistic director, to design the organization's new performance and education venue. Opening this January, the 100,000-square-foot campus features a six-story atrium flooded with natural light (right) and a cutting-edge concert hall with acoustically reflective "sails." *nws.edu; 305.673.3330*



TABLE PHOTO: JONATHAN BECKERMAN. ICEBERG PHOTO: COURTESY OF WOODS BAGOT. ART PHOTO: ANTHOLOGY GRAPH III, 1981, BY HERBERT BAYER. COURTESY OF HERBERT BAYER COLLECTION AND ARCHIVE, DENVER ART MUSEUM. NWS PHOTO: COURTESY OF GEHRY PARTNERS, LLP.

CHICAGO

SHOWROOMS

THREE'S COMPANY

The Chicago design community is abuzz about a trio of high-profile showrooms debuting soon. First, in tony Winnetka, a new Christopher Guy showroom will make its home in a 1920s bank building in late October. The 9,500-square-foot space will feature the British designer's signature carnelian red alongside his classic yet contemporary furnishings. Fellow Brits The Rug Company, heralded for their handmade wares, are opening up shop in River North. Housed in a structure known as The Glassbox, the 3,000-square-foot showroom will comprise an eclectic collection of rugs hanging from its 27-foot-high ceilings. And—in the midst of its 40th anniversary celebration (the new Half Plaid is shown right)—wallcoverings empire Maya Romanoff is unveiling a 3,000-square-foot flagship in The Merchandise Mart this winter, designed in collaboration with David Rockwell. christopherguy.com; therugcompany.info; mayaromanoff.com



MAYA ROMANOFF PHOTO: EREZ SABAG. SCIENCE CENTER PHOTO: COURTESY OF ARCHITEKTON + KDC + MORRIS. CHAIR PHOTO: COURTESY OF MFAH. © ARS, NEW YORK. RUG PHOTO: COURTESY OF ROUBINI.



PHOENIX

ARCHITECTURE

SCIENCE EXPERIMENT

In need of expansion, improved access for the disabled and a more defined main entry, the Arizona Science Center turned to Tempe-based Architekton for a transformation. The firm sought to integrate the new design with the old while forging a stronger sense of identity for the downtown building. The focal point is a zinc-paneled folded roof that floats above a former patio and enhances interaction among key spaces. Opening this January, the striking new aesthetic will serve as a preview of the mind-bending marvels inside. azscience.org; 602.716.2000



HOUSTON

DESIGN

ODE TO AIA

The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston and the Houston chapter of the American Institute of Architects teamed up in 2000 to amass a collection of architect-designed objects and showcase architects' contributions to design. This unique partnership is being recognized in *Form Follows Function: Celebrating 10 Years of the American Institute of Architects Design Collection at the MFAH*, including works by Marcel Breuer, Frank Gehry and Gerrit Rietveld, who designed the 1932 Zig-Zag chair (left). On view through January. mfah.org; 713.639.7300



NEW YORK

PRODUCT

HEAVEN ON EARTH

Inspired by his fragrance bottles, containing "the world's most expensive perfume," Clive Christian has dreamed up an ornate line for Roubini Rugs. The British designer chose romantic details and soft colors, as in the Portrait No. 1 Rug (above), depicting a cherub in repose amid a neutral Renaissance motif. Then, Sam Roubini translated Christian's designs into plush hand-knotted creations in wool and silk. roubinirugs.com; 212.696.4648