

THE 2011 at home HOT LIST: WHAT YOU'LL LOVE WHO YOU CAN THANK

By Mayer Rus



So many people, places, products and trends are shaping the global world of design. But trying to choose which ones to watch, learn more about, and be motivated by can put one's brain circuitry on overload. You can relax, though, because we've done it for you with our definitive, tastemaker-approved list of the people and ideas designing the way we live today. We've got it all—names, websites and endless inspiration, especially for you. ☺

Robin Petravac and Cathy Bailey share design stories and inspiration on their blog at heathceramics.wordpress.com.

The best place to start your search for just the right chair or table is **REMODELISTA**, a user-friendly site that is unmatched in its comprehensiveness. With signature features such as "Steal This Look" and "Design Sleuth," Remodelista serves up a bounty of beautiful objects, designers and services along with a healthy dose of inspiration. Best of all, the featured products fall squarely within that sweet spot between cheap throwaway and hopelessly unaffordable. remodelista.com



Find images you love (like this one of Sarah Jessica Parker's kitchen) and create an online clip file using Remodelista's "My Design Files."

Check out the elegant options in O'Brien's affordable rug collection at target.com.



THOMAS O'BRIEN,

the creative force behind New York's Aero Studios,

puts a modern twist

on classic American style—think Mount Vernon meets the Glass House. His signature look—soft, muted colors, updated traditional forms and luxurious materials—comes to life in his Vintage Modern collection for Target. O'Brien also designs for high-end manufacturers such as Waterworks, Safavieh Rugs, Hickory Chair and Reed & Barton. The title of his new monograph, *American Modern*, just about says it all.

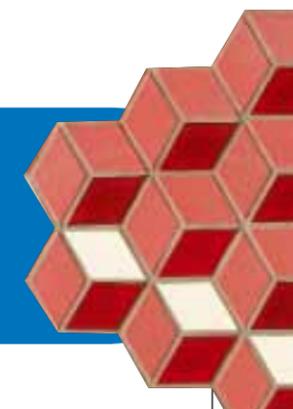
aerostudios.com

Blu Dot founders lounge on their aerodynamic Couchoid sofa (below). Their sturdy steel Real Good counterstool (right) folds for shipping.



College friends John Christakos, Charles Lazor and Maurice Blanks (*far left*) founded **BLU DOT** in 1997 with the noble mission of bringing good design to as many people as possible. They succeeded. Their wide-ranging furniture collection makes a conscious nod to the clean lines and sculptural shapes of mid-century modernism, but updates the design language for a new millennium. Chic and affordable—what's not to like? bludot.com

Like a Noguchi lamp or Eames chair, **HEATH CERAMICS** are always in good taste. The tableware company founded by Edith Heath in 1948 recently received a 21st-century makeover courtesy of husband-and-wife owners Robin Petravac and Catherine Bailey. While staying true to the company's modernist roots and its classic forms and glazes, the couple breathed new life into the operation by introducing artist collaborations (including the Dwell line, *right*) and partnering with renowned skateboarding ceramist Adam Silverman. If Heath is good enough for chef Alice Waters' famed Chez Panisse, it's good enough for us. heathceramics.com



Out of the incessant chatter of the young whippersnappers who populate the interior design blogosphere, Joni Webb's voice of experience and authority comes through loud and clear. Her beloved blog **COTE DE TEXAS** is a font of worldly wisdom on Continental antiques, European-influenced interiors, American design history and the simple joys of decorating—Paris by way of Houston. cotedetexas.blogspot.com



Former fashion designer Michele Varian has a shop of her own, but sells distinctive goods like this ultrasuede pillow at ABC.



Founded in 1897, **ABC CARPET & HOME** has long been regarded as a New York institution. In its 21st-century incarnation, this dazzling bazaar of interior furnishings has reinvented itself as a model of environmentally and socially responsible business. Under the banner of ABC Home & Planet, the company offers organic bedding and textiles, wood furniture from responsibly managed forests, handmade artisan crafts, and a host of corporate initiatives designed for enlightened commerce and a sustainable future. It's all about looking good while doing good. abchome.com

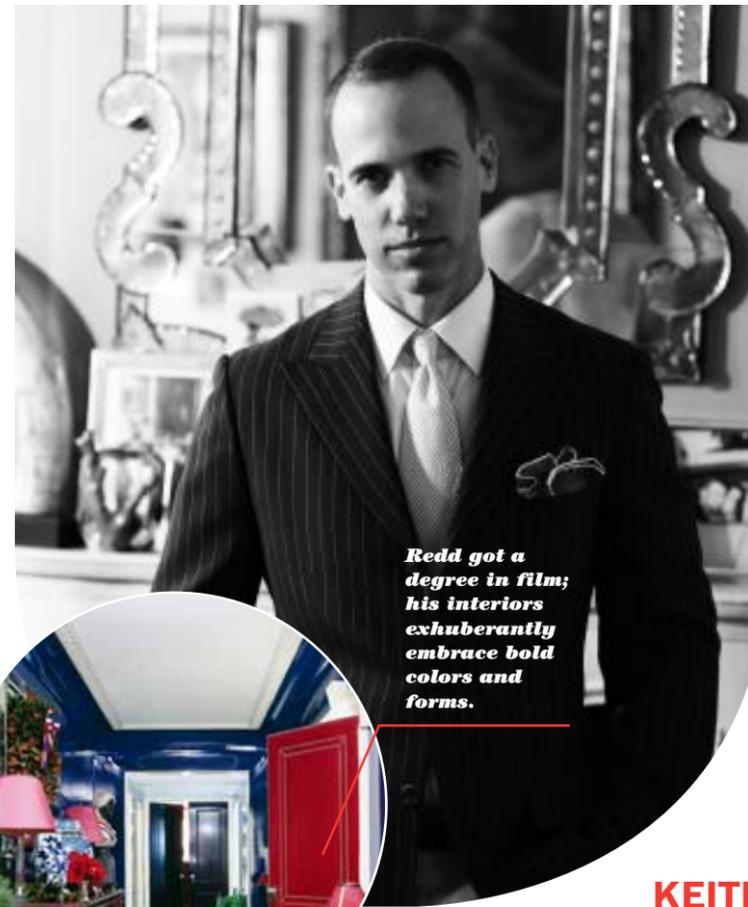
Inspired by earthy Adirondack furnishings, the Great Camp collection includes a chair, credenza and dresser.



Rooms at The Jane capitalize on the building's history as a hotel for sailors, with miniscule slices of space like the 50-square-foot standard cabin.

In space-starved cities such as New York and Tokyo, **POD HOTELS** with pint-size rooms are all the rage among thrifty travelers who still demand a stylish bang for their buck. In typical fashion, accommodations at The Jane (thejanenyc.com) and The Pod Hotel (thepodhotel.com) in Manhattan are tricked out like ship's cabins for maximum efficiency. Ahoy, savings! Farewell, elbow room.

Design cognoscenti flock to Jamie Gray's New York design emporium, Matter, for its keenly edited selection of contemporary European furniture. Last spring, Gray made a splash with his first in-house collection, **MATTER MADE**, which rallies 12 cutting-edge talents based in the U.S., including Stephen Burks and Lindsey Adelman. This could be the advent of a new American design revolution. mattermatters.com



Redd got a degree in film; his interiors exuberantly embrace bold colors and forms.

Interior designer **MILES REDD** isn't afraid to put on a show. Born in Atlanta and now based in Manhattan, he fearlessly wields color, pattern and texture to spectacular effect. Pink walls with doors upholstered in zebra? Graphic black-and-white striped wallpaper with chartreuse kitchen cabinets? Redd not only makes it work, he makes it sing. Perhaps that's why socialites and fashion czars across the country call on him to create seriously seductive homes that sparkle with youthful brio and Redd's own insouciant charm. milesredd.com



Keith Johnson is part cultural anthropologist, part connoisseur and part treasure hunter.



KEITH JOHNSON

has the ultimate dream job for die-hard shopaholics. As buyer-at-large for the bohemian-chic retailer Anthropologie, he scours the globe in search of amazing antiques, exotic decorative accessories and artisan creations you won't find in any other shop. He's so good he's even got his own show on The Sundance Channel, ever-so-appropriately named *Man Shops Globe*. sundancechannel.com/man-shops-globe

Download the Mark on Call app to plan room layouts and create DIY shopping lists.



Useful tools for home design projects now fit neatly in your pocket, thanks to **SMARTPHONE APPS** like Home Sizer, which calculates square footage and construction costs, and 3rd Whale, which guides consumers to environmentally friendly businesses. Plus, new platforms like the Apple iPad deliver interactive info to increasingly restless readers. Stay tuned for competition from Samsung, Dell and Motorola, with spins on the tablet that rely on the Android operating system. apple.com

Paul Timman shot to fame at Sunset Tattoo in Hollywood.



From men to women to fashion runways and now the dinner table, **TATTOOING** continues its tireless march into the mainstream. The latest fruit of this fertile trend is the Ink Dish Irezumi collection of porcelain dishware featuring traditional Japanese irezumi tattoo motifs such as dragons and cherry blossoms by renowned tattoo artist Paul Timman. inkdish.com

SHEILA BRIDGES, a popular presence on television and in high-end shelter magazines, boldly traipses over cultural, geographical and aesthetic boundaries in her freewheeling, occasionally cheeky product designs and interiors. Case in point: Her signature Harlem Toile de Jouy wallpapers and fabrics lampoon stereotypes of the African American experience while simultaneously honoring the grace and beauty of the venerable French toile tradition. It's a perfect marriage of Old World elegance and New World audacity. sheilabridges.com

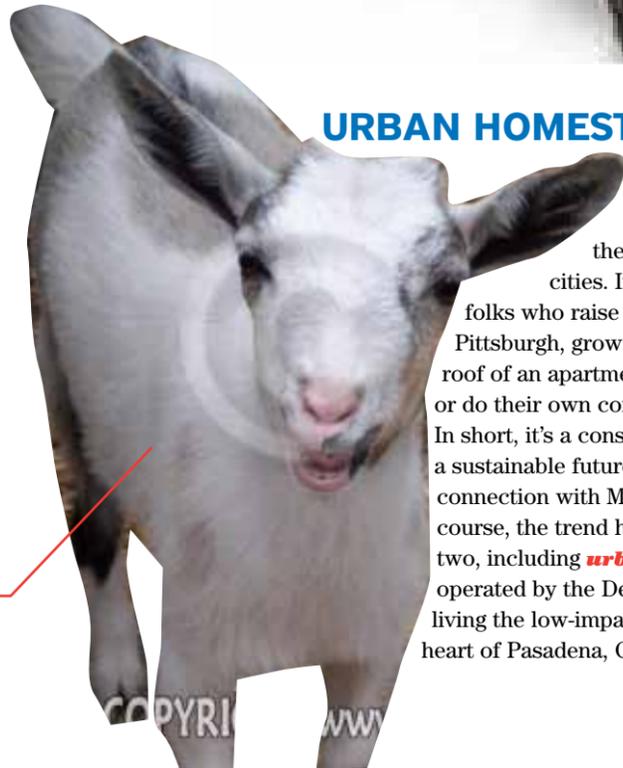


Hesitant about covering a chair? Look for Bridges' designs on glassware and plates, too.



You could pick up these leather bins from El Salvador online—or shop your local church bazaar for handcrafted goods that do good too.

Looking for a **ONE-OF-A-KIND** embroidered pillow from India or ceramic vase from El Salvador? The international non-profit organization Aid to Artisans unites designers and retailers (like Jonathan Adler) with local craftspeople in villages and towns around the world. It's a win-win proposition for businesses seeking unique, handmade products and low-income artisans who support their families by nourishing generations-old craft traditions. aidtoartisans.org



Tending a goat is one way to get back to the land. A pot of herbs on a windowsill counts too.

URBAN HOMESTEADING is a modern back-to-the-land movement for people whose land happens to be located in the concrete jungles of major cities. It's an umbrella term for folks who raise chickens in downtown Pittsburgh, grow organic vegetables on the roof of an apartment building in Brooklyn, or do their own composting in Cleveland. In short, it's a conscientious crusade for a sustainable future and a more intimate connection with Mother Earth. And, of course, the trend has spawned a website or two, including urbanhomestead.org. It's operated by the Dervaes family, who've been living the low-impact, self-sufficient life in the heart of Pasadena, California, since the 1980s.

Mad Men's Roger Sterling works at a Saarinen Tulip Table, still offered by Knoll.



The design world has gone mad for **MAD MEN**. The acclaimed AMC television series about the liquor-and-cigarette-fueled Madison Avenue advertising world of the 1960s has ignited a furor for the great style icons of the era. Think spare, tailored office furniture from Knoll (knoll.com), boldly patterned textiles from Marimekko (marimekko.fi/eng) and avant-garde Italian lighting from Artemide (artemide.com). amctv.com/originals/madmen

Just when you thought it was safe to throw away your Huey Lewis albums and Cabbage Patch dolls, the **1980s** are back. The style revival has raised the fortunes of MEMPHIS, a Milan, Italy-based product and furniture design collective begun by Ettore Sottsass in 1981. Often humorous and colorful, the MEMPHIS aesthetic strikes just the right note for today. (Try ebay for vintage pieces.) Forget your troubles, come on get happy! designmuseum.org/design/memphis

Sottsass's Carlton bookcase is a riotous smashup of color and lines.

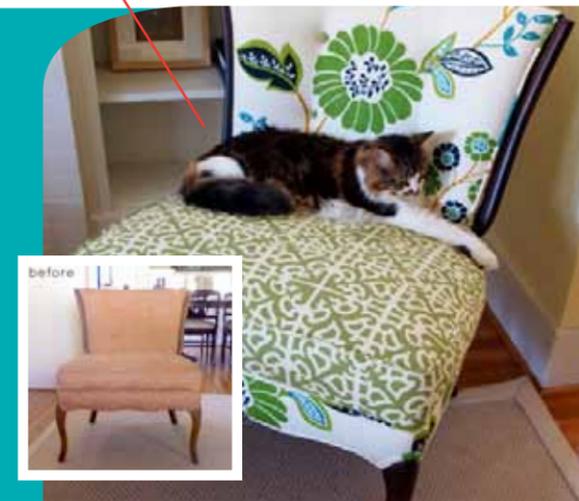


The **COOPER-HEWITT, NATIONAL DESIGN MUSEUM** in Manhattan has taken a leadership role in broadening the definition of design to include social responsibility along with aesthetics and function. In the fall of 2011, the museum will present "Critical Mass: Design and Urbanization," a provocative exhibition that explores the overlapping relationships among urban planning, education, climate change, sanitation, migration, public health and affordable housing in communities not traditionally serviced by professional designers. Serious stuff, and seriously important—plus their shop is great *and* online. cooperhewitt.org

Cooper-Hewitt offers distinctive art and objects, including this Portugese melamine sugar bowl.

*A design*sponge signature: A before/after project.*

Grace Bonney launched her pioneering website **DESIGN*SPONGE** in 2004, when most people were still trying to figure out what a blog was. At the ripe old age of 24, she recognized the potential of the medium and ran with it. Today, more than 60,000 design junkies click on Design*Sponge every day to soak up Bonney's insightful trend stories, product reviews, city guides and home tours, all mercifully delivered without hyperbole or pretension. designspongeonline.com



Lynn Von Kersting



A Von Kersting upholstered chair, resplendent in the designer's signature rich colors and patterns.



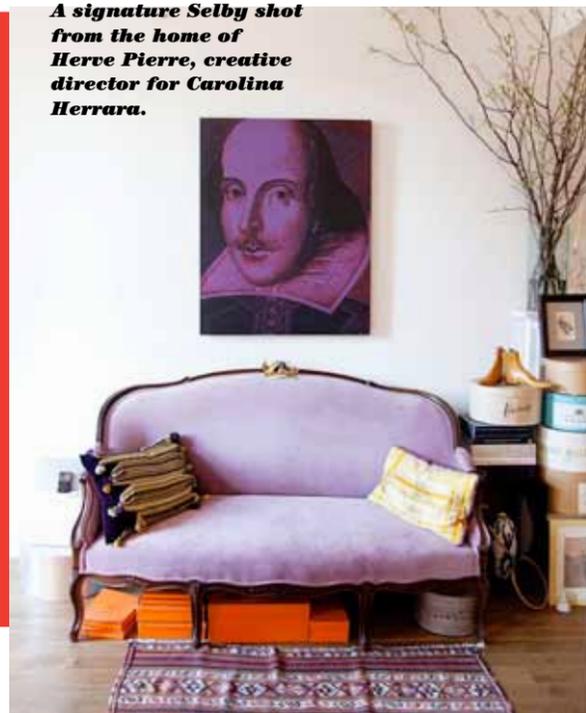
LYNN VON KERSTING is hard to pin down. Professionally, she's an interior designer, owner of L.A.'s famed restaurant and celebrity clubhouse The Ivy, and proprietor of the home furnishings boutique Indigo Seas. In terms of aesthetic sensibility, her tastes range all over the map, from Victorian settees to Moroccan lanterns to Indian textiles. All of which makes her an ideal ambassador of eclectic, idiosyncratic personal style in the age of globalization.

Melissa Birdsong draws particular inspiration from nature.



It used to be that a big-box store like Lowe's was the place you went to for basics—drywall, nails, fixtures. But as Vice President of Trend, Design and Packaging, **MELISSA BIRDSONG** is in the enviable position of refashioning the retail giant's shelves. Birdsong spends her days as cultural sleuth, figuring out what makes Americans tick when it comes to home DIY. Her current mission: Remake Lowe's into a one-stop build-and-design-it-yourself shop, so you can fix that leaky faucet and outfit the whole bathroom, from swanky shower curtain to trend-worthy tiles. **lowes.com**

A signature Selby shot from the home of Herve Pierre, creative director for Carolina Herrera.



Forget about stuffy, manicured visions of *la dolce vita*. A wildly popular website by photographer **TODD SELBY** offers an inside peek into the lifestyles of the funky, fabulous and fashionable from Brooklyn to Tokyo, in all their unfettered glory. It's a must-visit for idea-seekers, as well as the simply curious. Earlier this year, the wonderful world of Selby migrated from online to print with the publication of Todd's first book, *The Selby Is In Your Place*. **theselby.com**



Reggae dominates the third volume of Standard Hotel CDs.



First came Westin's Heavenly Bed, which was marketed to travelers eager to have the hedonistic comfort of a **LUXURY HOSPITALITY** experience **AT HOME**. Pretty soon hotels were selling everything from sheets to bath oils. The Standard has upped the ante by producing its own CD compilations of music that evokes the sexy, cocktail-clinking vibe of one its hip boutique hotels. Cheers! **standardhotels.myshopify.com**

GLAMOUR AND SEDUCTION

are the tools of Sara Rotman's trade. After toiling for years as an art director at Sony and advertising giant Saatchi and Saatchi, she finally decided to launch MODCo—shorthand for "my own damn company." That irreverent spirit has served her well. Her fledgling creative agency has become a powerhouse, producing show-stopping campaigns for the likes of Carolina Herrera, Victoria's Secret, Kim Kardashian and Nina Ricci. When she decided to indulge herself with a

house in upstate New York, she turned to friend and collaborator David Mann of MR Architecture + Decor. Together, the two created a dwelling as inspiring as any this year. Mann is fast becoming a powerhouse himself, with gorgeous homes and **SUMPTUOUSLY MINIMALIST STYLE** he employs for world-famous tastemakers and titans of business. Their homes are featured anonymously on Mann's website under names like "Soho Penthouse" and "Montana Ranch" (Rotman's is "Upstate NY House"). **mrarch.com, modcocreative.com**



The open living/dining/eating spaces of Rotman's home shield the quieter office and bedrooms from view.



MAYER RUS is the Design & Culture Editor of the *Los Angeles Times Magazine*. He hates blogging—the act as well as the term—but he writes one nevertheless: **fromruswithlove.com**.