



Art + Photography

What to See at Design Miami/ 2014

Can't-miss work by 8 young guns



By Alex Gilbert
December 2, 2014

Design Miami/ has never been merely a marketplace for design. Instead, the fair balances its commercial purpose with truly stellar programming and collaborations. Now, for its 10th year, the fair is emphasizing North American design, and has awarded architect Peter Marino the inaugural Design Visionary award, and invited Olson Kundig Architects to design the Collectors Lounge.

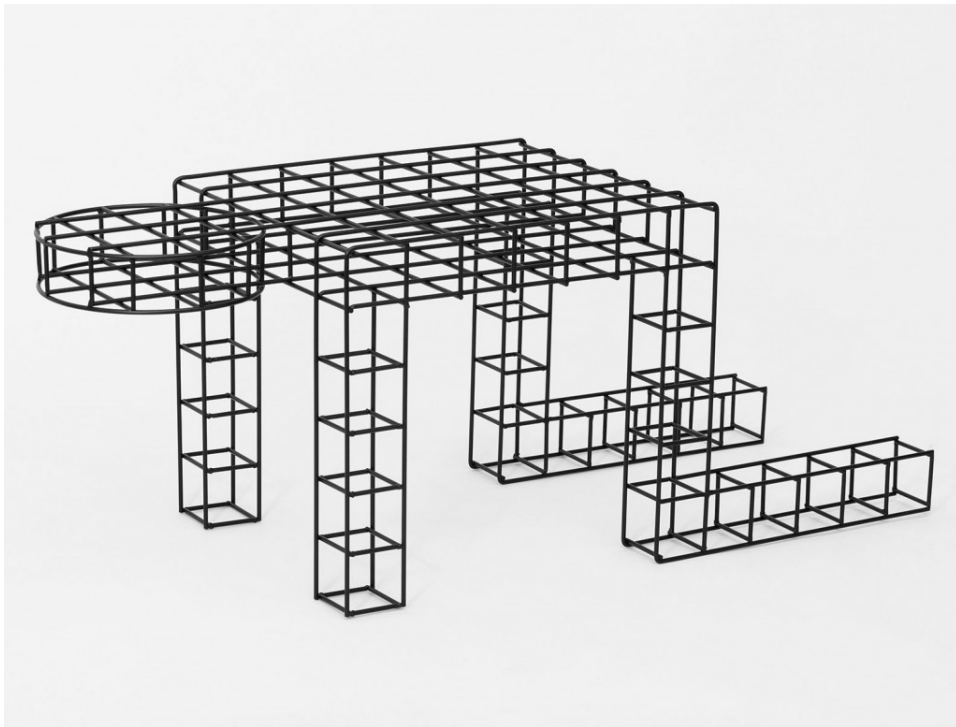
As an ongoing initiative, the fair commissions early-career architects to design the entrance pavilion of the exhibition tent. Building on an incredible record of tapping rising talents (David Adjaye and Snarkitecture, to name a few) this year's commission lies in the hands of a young architect named Jonathan Muecke, just one of many talented American designers to be discovered at Design Miami/.



"Blue Cabinet (BC)," by Jonathan Muecke (2014); courtesy Volume Gallery

Jonathan Muecke

Jonathan Muecke creates objects that embrace color as well as an ambiguity of scale or purpose, as in his anodized "Blue Cabinet (BC)," which you can see at the Volume Gallery booth along with works from "Future Tropes," a recent collaborative show that includes pieces by Matt Olson and Mike Brady of RO/LU, who, like Muecke hail from Minneapolis.



"Uncertain Surface (after coffee table/praying table)," by RO/LU (2014); courtesy Patrick Parrish, photo by Clemens Kois

RO/LU

It's only fitting that a multi-disciplinary design firm that likens itself to the Eames Office would jump at participating in this year's new section, Design Curio, which encourages the creation of a total environment. In this case, RO/LU conceived of wallpaper, rugs, clothing, and music to present a suite of sculptural steel mesh furniture inspired by fellow grid-glorifiers Ettore Sottsass and Superstudio.



"100 Variations table," by Jonathan Nesci (2014); courtesy Casati Gallery and the artist

Jonathan Nesci

Jonathan Nesci lives in Columbus, Indiana, a little-known top architectural destination with a firehouse by Robert Venturi and a library by I.M. Pei, not to mention a church by each Saarinen—Eero and Eliel. For this year's first Columbus Design Biennial, Nesci designed one hundred mirror-polished aluminum tables, all variations on the Golden Ratio for the courtyard of the senior Saarinen's First Christian Church. If you didn't catch the site-specific installation, several variations will be on view at Casati Gallery's booth, also designed by Nesci.



"ASMI34," by Adam Silverman (2014); courtesy of Edward Cella Art and Architecture and the artist

Adam Silverman

For L.A.'s Adam Silverman, the likes of Le Corbusier, Louis Kahn, and Tadao Ando are his inspiration. In fact, architecture was how Silverman's career started, but in 2002 he ventured into ceramics, having dabbled in clay since high school. Silverman's pots, each involving a simple form and complex glaze, are on view at Edward Cella alongside original drawings by some of his architectural heroes.



"Cherry Bomb collection," by Lindsey Adelman (2014); courtesy Nilufar Gallery and the artist

Lindsey Adelman

Since graduating from RISD in 1996, Lindsey Adelman has focused on perfecting lighting design. The highly sought-after custom work that emerges from her New York studio expertly marries metal armatures with hand blown glass, as in "Cherry Bomb collection."



"Savage chair," by Jay Sae Jung Oh (2014); courtesy of Johnson Trading Gallery and the artist

Jay Sae Jung Oh

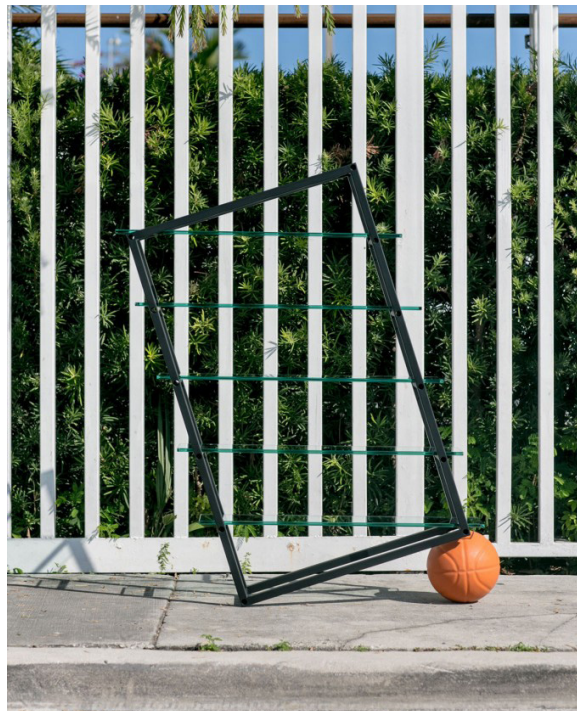
Chicago's Jay Sae Jung Oh collects trash (old toys and other plastic objects) and wraps them in jute, or more recently licorice-black leather, painstakingly transforming them over the course of up to four months into beautiful functional objects.



"Savage chair," by Jay Sae Jung Oh (2014); courtesy of Johnson Trading Gallery and the artist

The Haas Brothers

L.A.-based twins Nikolai and Simon have designed just about everything, including sets, hotels, clothing, and wallpaper. As a follow up to "Cool World," their massively successful first solo show at New York's R & Company, they're headed to Miami to debut rugs, a collection of other-worldly ceramics, and their awe-inspiring hairy "Beasts," which are equal parts humor and handiwork.



"B-ball Shelf," by Emmett Moore (2014); courtesy of Gallery Diet and the artist

Emmett Moore

Emmett Moore has the distinction of being the first Miami-based designer to be featured by a Miami exhibitor at the fair. Moore finds inspiration in his home town, which is both a tropical paradise and a gritty city. Surprisingly, each object on view at the fair is modular, incorporating elements that can be mixed and matched to create new forms.