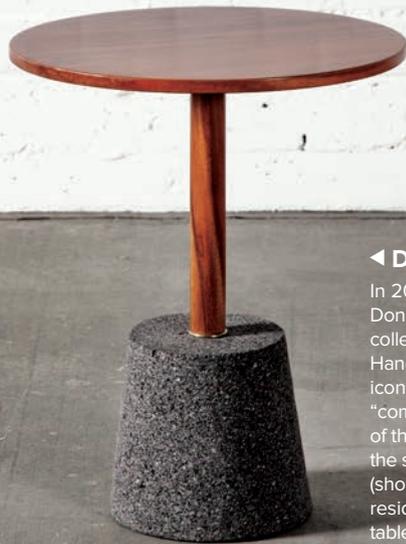


FREE *form*

LUXE PREVIEWS THREE FURNITURE MAKERS CREATING BUZZWORTHY PIECES OUT OF THEIR OWN COLORADO STUDIOS.



◀ DENVER MODERN

In 2018, after nearly a decade in the custom table-making business, furniture maker Donnie Criswell partnered with his wife, Lindsey Price Criswell, to develop a customizable collection of tables, seating, case goods and accessories with a fresh, modern sensibility. Handmade from a palette of hardwoods, leather, marble and steel, and inspired by the iconic designs of Florence Knoll and Charles and Ray Eames, their inaugural collection “combines rugged materials made modernly beautiful,” says Donnie Criswell. Highlights of the ready-to-buy inventory include the triangular, puzzle-piece-like Ziggy nesting tables; the sleek-yet-roomy upholstered Keystone sofa; and the wood-and-concrete Summit table (shown). Designs can be tweaked to fit each client’s needs or made from scratch for any residential or commercial space. In keeping with the Criswells’ roots, the duo’s custom tables are made from spectacular, live-edge slabs of wood. Up next: a Denver showroom that’s set to open in January 2019. denvermodern.com

GARRETT BROWN DESIGNS ▶

Striking, streamlined and simple—Denver-based furniture maker Garrett Brown’s designs check all the right boxes for collectors of functional modern art, but the handmade furnishings displayed on his shoppable website are just a preview of his capabilities. Since launching his design and manufacturing company in his small apartment just four years ago, Brown has moved into a 3,500-square-foot studio in Westminster, assembled a team of wood- and metalworkers and fabricators, and created custom designs for a wide array of residential and commercial clients. New technologies, from three-dimensional printing to laser-cutting, allow Brown to seamlessly incorporate unexpected materials into his designs—the Erebus table’s top merges slabs of wood and marble and the Eros bench (shown) features one metal leg that can be finished in a rainbow of bold colors—but his focus is steadfast: honoring the natural beauty and movement of wood. garrettbrowndesigns.com



◀ BLACK HOUND DESIGN COMPANY

Those well acquainted with Denver’s bar and restaurant scene have likely encountered the work of Black Hound Design Company, which has designed and fabricated decor and furnishings for hot spots like Hearth & Dram, Punch Bowl Social and Tivoli Brewing Company, to name a few. But restaurant decor is just part of what founder James Hixson and his wife, Kate, as well as their team of metalsmiths, woodworkers, fine artists and industrial designers, can do. Their Arvada workshop turns out custom pieces—from live-edge wood power desks to sleek coffee tables with modern hairpin legs—for homes and offices across the country, and, drawing on Hixson’s formal training as a sculptor, striking art installations too. Character-rich wood stars in most every design, with cool industrial materials playing bold supporting roles. One of Hixson’s favorite creations: Denver restaurant Vital Root’s room dividers, which combine whitewashed, live-edge Australian pine slabs with modern metal grating reclaimed from an old post office. blackhounddesigncompany.com

DENVER MODERN PHOTO: MIERNE JUSSON III. BLACK HOUND PHOTO: THOMAS BREIT TAYLOR. GARRETT BROWN PHOTO: DAG LARSON.



MEET *the* MAKER

ALYSON KHAN

In 2000, on a whim, then-novice painter Alyson Khan showed a selection of her work at a Denver cafe—and sold every last piece. “That experience was electrifying and formative and definitely set me on a track to take my work more seriously and continue to put it out there,” Khan says. These days, her graphic, abstract paintings have found homes in hotels and private collections around the world, in collaborations with brands such as West Elm and Anthropologie, and in February, as part of a group exhibition at Denver’s Space Gallery. Here, Khan shares her inspiration and more. alysonkhan.com

Why is paint your medium of choice? Paint lends itself most extensively to experiencing color, which is probably the most important aspect of my work. There is an endless variety of colors you can achieve. I also deeply appreciate the emotional resonance and energy of color that can be felt through painting.

Tell us about your inspiration. It could be through colors, textures, textiles, interior design or weird shapes on a dried leaf, or even some words strung together, which I will actually scribble onto the canvas and build from there.

Do you have a creative to-do list? Rugs have always inspired me, and I would love to work with a rug designer and see my work applied in that way. I also think it would be amazing to see my work in fashion; to experience the images in motion.

TALKING SHOP

ORGANIC LOOMS

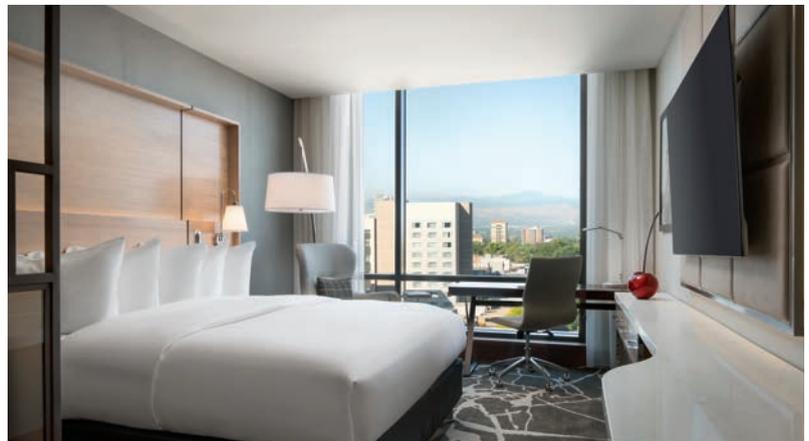
Inside Organic Looms’ new Denver Design District showroom (595 S. Broadway, Ste. 103E) you’ll find stunning heirloom-quality rugs and endless possibilities for bespoke designs. “If a client can dream it, we can make it,” says showroom director Stephanie Bryant Holmes. The Denver locale partners with weaving companies globally to create its designs. From drawings to completion, each rug is touched by nearly two dozen artisans, including weavers who spin and dye natural fibers by hand before knotting them on a vertical loom. The extensive inventory spans the style spectrum, from modern to tribal, and includes a collection of vintage, one-of-a-kind Turkish rugs. organiclooms.com



CHECK IN

JACQUARD HOTEL & ROOFTOP

The 201-room Jacquard Hotel & Rooftop (222 Milwaukee St.) may be shiny and new, but architecture firm Cannon Design and interiors studio Design Force Corporation went to great lengths to ensure the luxury hotel fits right into the tony Cherry Creek North shopping district. The eye-catching structure engages the bustling neighborhood with its glass-walled, two-story lobby, while a rooftop patio—complete with a bar and 75-foot-long pool—affords views of the skyline and mountains beyond. A collection of fine art—curated by art advisory firm Nine Dot Arts—showcases the work of local artists. An impressive array of extras, from in-room Peloton bikes to personal stylists to a Tesla house car, delivers everything travelers would expect from Denver’s swankiest hood. thejacquard.com



MEET THE MAKER PHOTO: WES MAGYAR; TALKING SHOP PHOTO: DENVER IMAGE PHOTOGRAPHY; CHECK IN PHOTO: COURTESY JACQUARD HOTEL & ROOFTOP.

INSIDE EDITION

LUXE ASKED FOUR COLORADO ARCHITECTS TO SHARE THE HOME DESIGN TRENDS THAT ARE ENERGIZING THEIR WORK.



“We currently have clients asking for less audio/visual technology and fewer televisions—one even asked for cell phone blockers to be installed in the house. Open floor plans remain on trend, but clients increasingly want intimate spaces that feel as cozy and welcoming when there are two guests as when there are 20. Because most of our projects are in fantastic natural settings, indoor-outdoor spaces are always in demand, as they allow our clients to integrate the natural surroundings into their daily lives.”

—JAMIE L. BREWSTER MCLEOD,
Brewster McLeod Architects

“Two factors drive most of the new custom-build checklists: First is downsizing required by baby boomers, who want smaller, more efficient entertaining spaces and open-plan indoor-outdoor spaces. Second are millennials, who require energy efficiency and ‘green-ness.’ The primary trend for both groups is lock-and-leave operation—they are extremely mobile and need to leave for travel or business at a moment’s notice. While away, they want technology that allows them to control their environment from afar.”

—JAMES D. NORDLIE,
Archiventure Group Architects

“The technological advances in home lighting, specifically LED, are markedly changing and improving the aesthetics and function of our lives and designs. Affordable, easily hidden, energy-efficient light sources with excellent color rendition can be used both indoors and out. When controlled with timers, dimmers and photocells, they are elevating and energizing our designs. Clients are requesting more home automation but also demanding that it be simple and user-friendly.”

—KAREN KEATING,
TKP Architects

“It’s amazing how things continue to evolve in the residential design world. For example, there are many new exterior cladding materials that were not accepted or widely available until recently. One of our favorites is Equitone’s fiber cement panels, which come in amazing patterns, sizes and colors. We’ve also been pushing the limits of technology by incorporating massive walls of glass with details like integrated operating motors and screens to make them as much about the view as possible.”

—KYLE WEBB,
KH Webb Architects

BLUEPRINT ST PAUL COLLECTION

It may come as a surprise that some of Denver’s hottest new addresses are for rent rather than for sale, but that’s the situation at the St Paul Collection (210 and 255 St Paul St.), a new pair of luxury residential towers located in the heart of the Cherry Creek North shopping district. Developed by BMC Investments and designed by 4240 Architecture and interior design firm Styleworks, the collection comprises 165 luxury rental residences including one-, two- and three-bedroom options, plus penthouses. Residents can enjoy top-notch details and finishes rarely found in local rental properties: window-walled living areas with 10-foot-high ceilings and adjacent private balconies; kitchens outfitted with Bosch or Thermador appliances, waterfall countertops and herringbone-patterned stone backsplashes; home-automation systems; and walk-in closets with built-in storage systems. The towers bring 55,000 square feet of ground-floor retail to the neighborhood, including CB2, SoulCycle and an outpost of the famed Upper East Side bistro Le Bilboquet. But the properties’ most coveted amenities are just for residents: glass-walled fitness centers, luxurious resident lounges, colorful art collections curated by Denver-based art advisory firm Nine dot Arts, 24/7 concierge services, and, up on each rooftop, a heated pool, hot tub, private cabanas, kitchen and a 360-degree view that rivals any in town. stpaulcollection.com



INSIDE EDITION HEADSHOTS: MCLEOD PHOTO, COURTESY BREWSTER MCLEOD ARCHITECTS, INC.; NORDLIE PHOTO, ANDREW CLARK; KEATING PHOTO, JEN BOSMA; WEBB PHOTO, KIMBERLY GAVIN. BLUEPRINT PHOTOS: ADAMS VISUAL COMMUNICATIONS.