

SPOTLIGHT: VINEYARD HOMES AT THE CARNEROS INN

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Furniture Report

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Idea Space Design

"Most of our clients don't have a lot of time to shop," says design partner/owner Stefano Joannides. "They toss us their keys and tell us to take care of it." Since it opened in 1997, Idea Space Design has been catering to clients who want original pieces and custom design. The Yano daybed (\$6,400 for queen size) was originally intended for a small space. "Our client was knocking out a bedroom to create more everyday open living space, but still wanted somewhere for guests to sleep," explains Joannides. "The daybed looks great as a sofa or chaise during the day, but can also be used as a regular queen-size bed. I even made sure that standard queen-size sheets can fit, and I added shelves underneath to double as nightstands." The design team, comprising Stefano and his twin, Christos, along with their partner Dale Monchamp, strives to create romantic pieces based on simple design principles. "We never want the furniture to overpower the essence of the room it is in," says Stefano. "Great design should complement and enhance the space, never dominate it."

Idea Space Design, 310.360.7140, www.ideaspacedesign.com

Gary Hutton

"What I love most about designing furniture for my own collection is not having to make compromises," says designer Gary Hutton. "I had originally designed the Library chair for a client who was the chairman of a biotech firm, and when I decided to put it into my furniture line, I was able to modify it to make it more my own." While Hutton may update or modify a few occasional pieces he has done for clients, he tends to create completely original pieces for his own collection. "I'm not really into reproductions. They just aren't my thing," he says. "For my own line, I want to explore my own ideas and do what will be contemporary for a while. What I'm trying to do is extend the longevity of my designs so they won't have a limited life span." Handcrafted from exotic woods such as Macassar ebony, birch or zebra-wood, the clean-lined Library chair is constructed with the same technology that Charles and Ray Eames used to achieve the shape of their bent plywood chairs. "The layers are bent in a vacuum, so you end up with a solid 1-inch-thick piece of veneered wood with a continuous line," explains Hutton. While each chair is made to order and can be customized (\$6,075 plus fabric, to the trade), Hutton recommends that the down cushion be covered in mohair velvet. "It's a highly underused yet superluxurious fabric," he says. "Not only is it quite durable and takes abrasion really well, it also feels amazing to sit on."

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