

DesignLA

Los Angeles Times

SPRING 2019

ED RUSCHA AND BILLY AL BENGSTON / CO COLLECTIONS
FIRE HOUSE HOTEL / BLUM & POE / DISC INTERIORS
APPARATUS / ROBIN COTTLE JEWELRY / CULVER CITY

ARTIST JOHANNES GIRARDONI
AND EYRC ARCHITECTS IN VENICE





LUMINAIRE GOES WEST

Nasir and Nargis Kassamali—Kenyans of Indian descent—emigrated to the United States in 1973. Enamored by the work of Le Corbusier, Mies van der Rohe, Alvar Aalto and Arne Jacobsen, they wanted to share this passion with the public, opening a 500-square-foot kiosk in North Miami in 1974. They specialized in modern European lighting, and they called their new business Luminaire

Forty-five years later, Luminaire has showrooms in Coral Gables, Miami, Chicago and—as of last November—Los Angeles, and it offers a curated selection of international contemporary design directly to the consumer. “When Luminaire first opened, the landscape of fine home furnishings was restricted to interior designers,” says Nasir. “Nargis and I wanted to remove those to-the-trade barriers and democratize design.”

Luminaire’s expansion to Los Angeles was a logical step. “The city is undergoing a cultural revitalization that has seen the migration of artists into the city,” says Nasir. “They’ve brought a new sense of vitality, and this creative culture has appealed to a broad range of people, including designers, architects, gallerists and fashion personalities. There’s so much to discover here. I love the resurgence of energy downtown, and we’ve been inspired by Dover Street Market. L.A. also has some of the best design schools in the country, and it’s been a lot of fun connecting with faculty, many of whom have been Luminaire fans for years. Luminaire has always followed its own ideas, and L.A. is an open climate for that mindset. We believe that L.A. will be a game changer in Luminaire’s history—a new unwritten page.”

Luminaire, 8840 Beverly Blvd., luminaire.com



Photos by Sam Frost

