

# FORCES *of* NATURE

## SHAPE SHIFTER

**THE PIECE:** Hex Bookends

**THE DESIGNER:** Erin Sullivan

**FIND IT:** [esobjects.com](http://esobjects.com)

**THE INSPIRATION:** Featuring powerful geometric patterns, these bookends were created to reflect the careful study of nature's balance and the intricate life-forms that exist within.



BEAUTY IS IN THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER, AS PROVEN BY THESE SIX TASTEMAKERS WHOSE FIRST IMPRESSIONS ARE ANYTHING BUT EXPECTED.

WRITTEN BY **CARA GIBBS**  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY **CHRISTINA HOLMES**



**MARY WALLIS**  
LIGHTING DESIGNER  
[MARYWALLIS.COM](http://MARYWALLIS.COM)

**First Impression:** Substantial, modular, biomimicry, symbolic, meticulous. **Artistry:** Erin's work preserves fragile, found-in-nature forms in bronze: beetles, feathers and snakes are all frozen forever in time. These organic elements are combined with geometric patterns distilled from biology, ancient symbols and precise modern shapes to create a collection with references that span centuries. **Material:** The polished-brass base is very satisfying; I respond to the honesty of the material. **Luxury:** When the bespoke nature of the piece is evident, that is luxury. **Time-Honored:** These bookends seem like they could be from the ancient world. I can see this collection in a glamorous foyer or library.



SEAN KNIBB  
INTERIOR AND PRODUCT DESIGNER  
KNIBBDESIGN.COM

**First Impression:** Simplistic, harmonious, teasing, light, elegant. **Staying Power:** Calvin Klein has managed to create interesting variations on traditional home pieces, elevating their elegance while keeping a level of simplicity that allows for each piece to complement a variety of styles. **Form + Function:** The juxtaposition between the glass and stone materials, while repeating the same square form within both, produces a gradation of transparency to opaque. **Ethos:** Playfulness brings a humanistic element to a design. Without it, the simplicity would feel sterile. **Found:** This table should live somewhere the light would constantly change, showing off the transparent levels of the base.

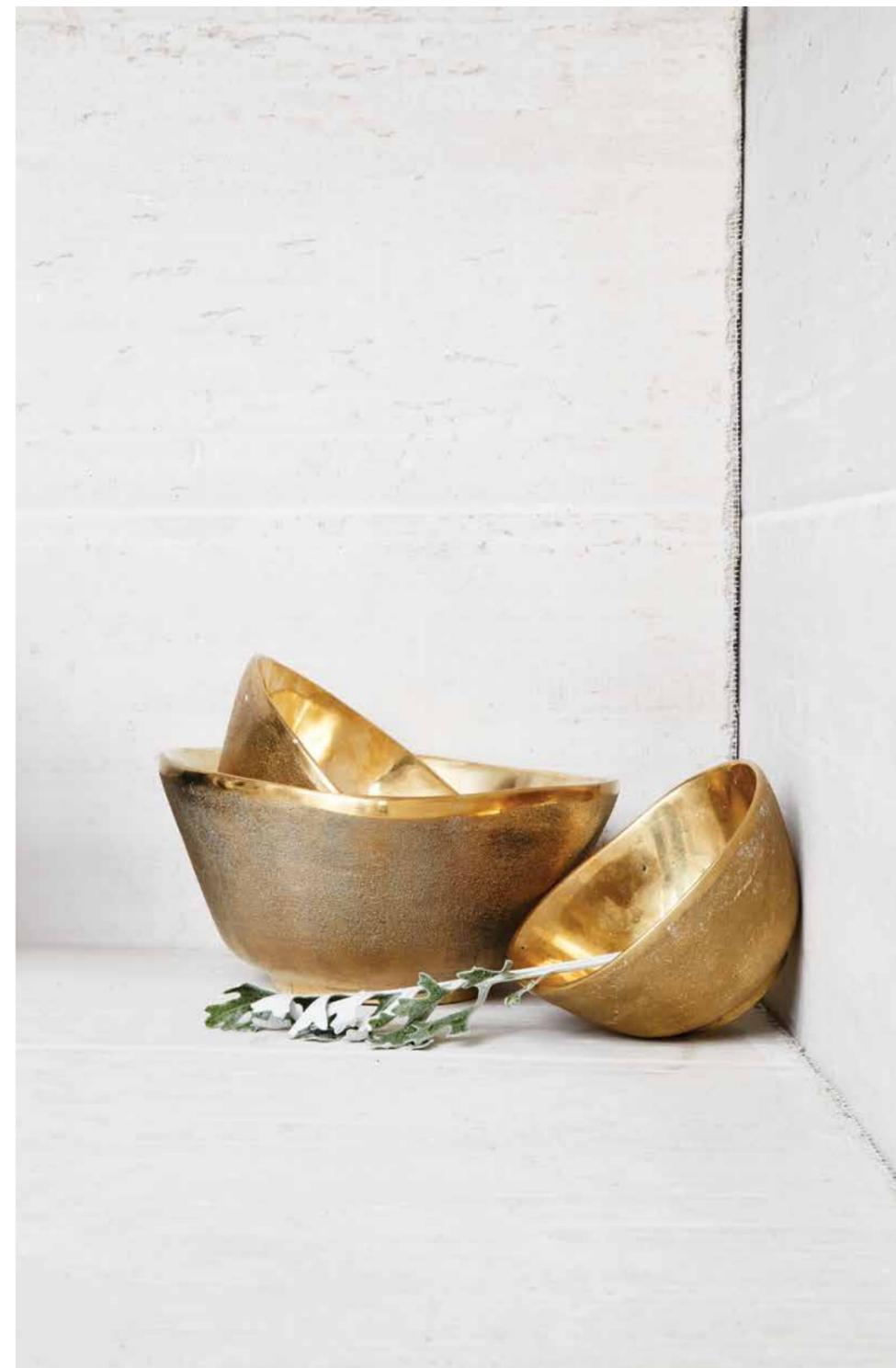
## LUCID THOUGHTS

**THE PIECE:** Crosscut Glass + Strata Stone Side Table

**THE DESIGNER:** Calvin Klein Home

**FIND IT:** calvinklein.com

**THE INSPIRATION:** With an aim to challenge simplistic form and daily function—a trademark of the formidable brand—this side table pairs intersecting smoked-translucent glass with a natural stone top to create material contrast and visual texture.



## ROUGHLY REFINED

**THE PIECE:** Rupi Bronze Nesting Bowls

**THE DESIGNER:** Jaimal Odedra

**FIND IT:** maisongerard.com

**THE INSPIRATION:** Employing old-world sand-casting techniques, each exquisitely crafted piece is handmade by Moroccan artisans, revealing a byproduct of organic shapes conveyed in dual textures.



JUAN GARCIA  
MOSQUEDA  
SHOP OWNER  
CHAMBERNYC.COM

**First Impression:** Irregular, solid, man-made, cozy, precious. **Finishing Touch:** The glossy brass finish and textured exterior create a dialogue between the inside and out. **Construction:** Nested inside one another, the irregular shapes resemble something that comes from nature but is flecked with a human touch—a human intervention rooted in exceptional craftsmanship. **Chances Are:** Risk leads to great, unexpected results. It's a fascinating way to ideate innovative products. Here, the experimentation within the applied arts led to a successful outcome that feels very natural, like part of the same visual language. **Lasting Impact:** People will look at these objects 100 years from now in museums and learn about our current lifestyle and contemporary human behavior. It's these types of pieces that will eventually transcend time.



# FIGHT CLUB

**THE PIECE:** Arrow, Warrior Collection

**THE DESIGNER:** Raymond Barberousse

**FIND IT:** [studiopgrb.com](http://studiopgrb.com)

**THE INSPIRATION:** Warrior meets high design as this Miami-based studio challenges conventional symbolism—with the arrow no longer a weapon for conflict but rather an illuminating fixture that radiates beauty.



**BRIAN THOREEN**  
INTERIOR AND PRODUCT DESIGNER  
[BRIANTHOREEN.COM](http://BRIANTHOREEN.COM)

**First Impression:** Complementary, elegant, quiet, expressive, balanced. **Show + Tell:** Every designer's creative process is wildly different. It is difficult to look at a final piece and know how someone has arrived there. The object will always possess phantoms of the process, but if a work is successful (like here) there is also something that has not entirely been revealed, something that is greater than the sum of its parts. **Mark of Success:** Balance achieved via imbalance. **Memory:** Ten years ago I was traveling on the Trans-Siberian Railway and there was an incredibly beautiful woman that left behind an Art Deco hairpin similar to this fixture. I keep it with my drafting pencils. **Play vs. Work:** Playfulness is the forever mistress of all creative work.



# EN PLEIN AIR

**THE PIECE:** Bloomsbury Rose in Indigo and Damson, Caprifoglio Collection

**THE DESIGNER:** Tricia Guild

**FIND IT:** [designersguild.com](http://designersguild.com)

**THE INSPIRATION:** Sumptuous velvet is the canvas for a hand-painted floral motif of delicate, large-scale roses that radiates with the feel of a contemporary tapestry in full bloom.



**CHRISTY MATSON AND JANE PALMER**  
PRODUCT DESIGNERS AT MATSON + PALMER  
[NOONBYJANEPALMER.COM](http://NOONBYJANEPALMER.COM)

**First Impression:** Textural, romantic, rugged, rich, Impressionistic. **Forward-Thinking:** It's not easy to take something old and make it new, but for Designers Guild, that art seems effortless. In this collection, traditional motifs and contemporary palettes draw from the past—enlivening designs in a way that feels fresh and transformative. **Work of Art:** These prints don't feel like fabric but rather painted compositions—as if Monet stopped by the studio to whip up some designs. **Instant Classic:** Each hand-painted fabric is quick to become an heirloom of tomorrow. That's often the benefit of a one-of-a-kind piece, especially one that puts whimsy front and center.



# WOW FACTOR

**THE PIECE:** W Chairs

**THE DESIGNER:** Anna Karlin

**FIND IT:** [annakarlin.com](http://annakarlin.com)

**THE INSPIRATION:** With the classic Windsor in mind, Anna Karlin carefully crafted the W chairs (set of four) to reflect a timeworn sensibility seen through a modern lens, meticulously whittling each spoke by hand to the desired finish, which is then met by a perfectly formed CNC seat.



LAURA AVIVA  
SHOP OWNER AND  
PRODUCT DESIGNER  
[LAVIVAHOME.COM](http://LAVIVAHOME.COM)

**First Impression:** Hand-touched, spirited, bold, evocative, regal. **Composition:** I love how these chairs play with form and proportion, most especially in their exaggerated torsos that reveal a soft, matte finish on the maple.

**Muse:** Anna Karlin artfully navigates the design process in such an incredibly fluid way without relegating what she does to a specific discipline. Working with this dynamic interdisciplinary approach, she really hones the definition of what it means to create and to be a creative.

**Storytelling:** While it's certainly true that these chairs exude a modern silhouette, there's also something nostalgic about them. They generate an emotional response and prevail a connection to objects in a compelling way.