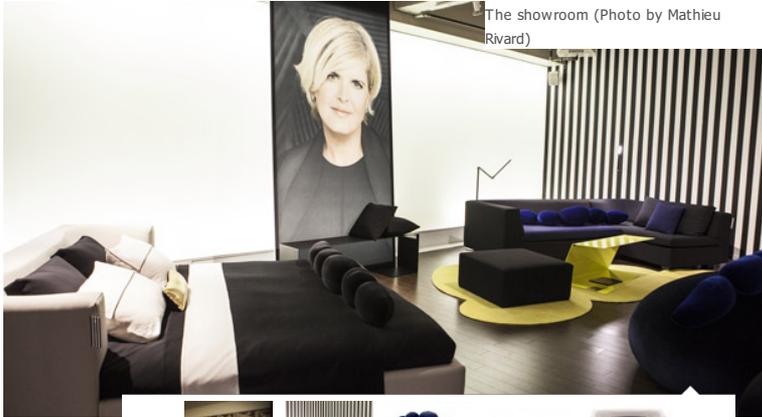




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The showroom (Photo by Mathieu Rivard)



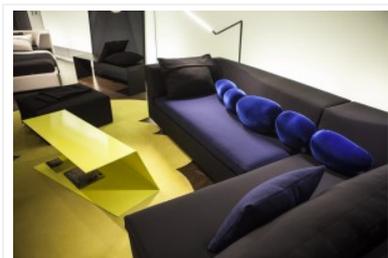
April 14, 2014

## Marie Saint Pierre + Meubles Re-No: Fashionable Furnishings

by Katia Jean Paul

One is an esteemed homegrown fashion designer, whose namesake label spans clothing, accessories, fragrances and home decor. The other, a Montreal contemporary furniture showroom in the city's East End that has been in business since 1961. Given their affinity for luxury design, clean, modern lines and expert craftsmanship, a collaboration between Marie Saint Pierre and Meubles Re-No makes perfect sense.

Marie Saint Pierre + Meubles Re-No, which launched April 2, marks the high-end furniture manufacturer's first collaboration with a fashion designer. The spring 2014 collection includes 15 pieces (priced between \$900-\$9,000) and 10 accessories (starting at \$65) imbued with Saint Pierre's signature aesthetic.



Yamato sectional, Karwai string of cushions, Aimi table, Hirakawa worsted wool rug, Masatoshi bench and Nakanishi ottoman (Photo by Mathieu Rivard)

"We saw that collaborations of this kind had been done before at the international level, with Roche Bobois and Jean Paul Gaultier for example, and so that's how we got the idea," said Meubles Re-No CEO Patricia Gagnon, at the unveiling. "The goal was to bring together two high-end companies within the design industry."

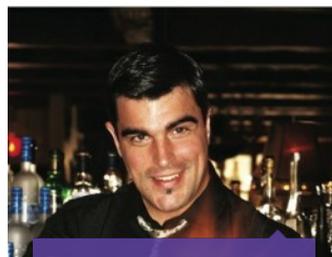
The collection took one year to make, during which time Saint Pierre worked closely with Re-No's team to fashion pieces that strike the perfect balance between form and function. The designer admits the furniture manufacturer's production process was completely revised, right down to the sewing needles used, in order to bring her vision to reality. Gagnon explained that it was a close collaboration and a learning process. "We used new fabrics, which required that we use new techniques and buy new machines," said Gagnon. "We had never done folded metal furniture before. That was new to us."



In addition to folded metal pieces and modular tables is a classic Re-No dining



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The Emiko chair, upholstered with Marie Saint Pierre's stretch fabric for greater back support. (Photo by Mathieu Rivard)

chair upholstered with scuba-like stretchy fabric that not only offers greater back support, but is reminiscent of Saint Pierre's angular runway creations. "It's as though she dressed the chair, like it's wearing a dress," said Gagnon. A plush

pouf filled with micro beads, which comes in four different sizes, is a cushy sculptural piece, even more so when adorned with Saint Pierre's inspired string of cushions. The lot also includes worsted wool area rugs, intricate throws complete with pockets and table runners all bearing Saint Pierre's graphic, linear style.

The result: "a collection that seeks balance between function, aesthetic and well-being," says Saint Pierre.

Among the various pieces—available in a rich array of colours, including midnight blue, bone and taupe—the designer's "conversation bed," part chaise longue, part bed, is most illustrative of her quest for quality and aesthetically pleasing design that provides comfort and joy.



The Asakura king bed, built for bedtime reading and other pastimes. (Photo by Mathieu Rivard)

"We do a lot of things in bed, like working, reading and talking with our spouse. The head board should be conducive to these activities," says Saint Pierre. "If someone has to make the effort to get comfortable, that's energy that could be spent doing something else. We shouldn't have to compromise."

Marie Saint Pierre + Meubles Re-No: available at Meubles Re-No, 2673 Charlemagne Av. (accessories available on order).

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