

+ STYLE MAKERS

An inspiring piece of furniture can transform a space, bringing a stylized aesthetic to any room. Borrowing from a diverse palette of natural resources like metal, wood, stone and glass, handcrafted furnishings take on individual personalities, lending fresh perspective to interiors. In this issue of *LUXE*, four Chicago-based furniture makers enrich their craft with creations that are both beautifully realized and unmistakably unique.





What's your most recent prized creation?

For me, the newest and freshest pieces are the most exciting. We recently did a Samba wall shelf and mirror combination that I'm really happy with.

What inspires you in your work?

I'm always looking for unique compositions, so things pop out to me. I look for beauty in the mundane.



What should homeowners splurge on?

Don't hold back on things you really love, and splurge on things of beauty for the home. They will create an environment that is unique, special and meaningful.

What is your own biggest splurge?

I have a lake home in Michigan, and I've splurged on my landscaping and an outdoor shower and sauna area.

What defines your style or the style of your work itself?

It's really important for my company to create original work that is elegant and graceful.

What is your own home like?

My home is an interesting blend of old and new. We live in an 1880s row house, and it still has the original stairwell ornamentation and an antique look.

Which item in your own home would you never part with?

It's a beautiful, quirky cabinet that I created when I first started designing. It's one of the first pieces I ever made, and it represents a milestone for me.



LEE WEITZMAN

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FURNITURE

Quality, strength and beauty merge at the hands of Lee Weitzman, who showcases his creations at his custom furniture showroom, Lee Weitzman Furniture. With a background in sculpture and art, Weitzman credits the former for driving his unique ability to bring together elements of creativity and technicality. "Our interpretations are original," he says of his company's approach. "We have a fresh, unique vision that still pays homage to the past." Indeed, while Weitzman references multiple design movements in his work, from Biedermeier to Art Nouveau, he has cultivated his own eclectic interpretation of function, and utilizes the tension between different materials to produce a harmonious flow that's evident in his work. Says Weitzman, "Even things out of context to furniture matter. Every good design has a resonance that stands out to me, but unexpected little pieces of life inspire me the most."

FURNITURE FIND

Verona Club Chair, *price upon request; leeweitzmanfurniture.com*

