

"The designers I have affinity with are Tapio Wirkkala, for his sense of form, texture, and nature; Jasper Morrison for his no-nonsense approach; and Paola Navone for her ability to create drama." —Aaron Probyn



Aaron Probyn
Great Britain

Enterprising British designer Aaron Probyn crafts minimalist kitchenware for mega-retailers like West Elm and Habitat. "It's important for me to pair up with the right manufacturers, as the execution is crucial to the end result," he says. Originally a carpenter, Probyn began exploring design by refurbishing midcentury housewares and selling them in London's Portobello Market. Using the proceeds, he went to Kingston University, then landed a short stint with Habitat under Tom Dixon and another with Conran before establishing his own studio. Crate & Barrel approached him to create Orb barware (above), a collection of organic, slightly mismatched metal pieces. His latest endeavor skews a bit larger than the tabletop: He built a house for his family. aaronprobyn.com



Vera & Kyte
Norway

Vera Kleppe and Åshild Kyte are the talents behind the up-and-coming Norwegian design studio Vera & Kyte. The Bergen-based duo credit their mixed aesthetic influences and curiosity about materials—as well as eye-opening internships with companies Fora Form and Varier—for their early design successes. These include pendant lights in vivid lacquered birch and colored glass (above), a daybed that evokes leisure and relaxation in its steel-frame form, and a series of pedestal tables that the designers say epitomizes their focus on "unpretentious combinations of form and color." Look for them in Milan at SaloneSatellite, premiering a new family of lamps as well as some updated versions of their tables and daybed. vera-kyte.com



Nick Ross
Scotland

It's no wonder that designer Nick Ross—of the Stockholm studio that bears his name—often references historical events. For inspiration, he says, "You can't beat a good BBC documentary. If the title starts with 'Mysteries Of...' then you already have my attention." His Cararra marble White Lies series (above) transmits a post-modern interpretation of Greek and Roman sculpture, while an ancient trade route is the jumping-off point for his Baltic Gold shelving. Though his immediate plans are hazy—expect new work, potentially lighting, in stone and metal—Ross would someday like to collaborate with a team of archaeologists: "I have no idea how it would work, but it could be a lot of fun, kind of a speculative history project." nckrss.com >