

I AM...



- 92% Right-handed
- 4% Left-handed
- 4% Ambidextrous



MY FAVORITE MATERIAL IS...

- 26% Steel
- 21% Wood
- 9% Clay
- 9% Wool
- 5% Marble
- 5% Resin
- 5% Concrete
- 4% Fabric
- 4% Paper
- 4% Hair
- 4% Any pliable material
- 4% All of the above

ROTTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS / @LAURIDS.GALLEE

Laurids Gallée

Austrian designer Laurids Gallée is a bit of a scientist—which might not be surprising, given that he studied anthropology before moving to the Netherlands to focus on design. Now, he is more interested in human behavior as it relates to pushing the possibilities of materials and craft. “On the one hand, I’m interested in finding the right material, proportions, repetition, and certain sculptural qualities,” Gallée says. “On the other, I’m obsessed with illustration, drawing, and the idiosyncrasies of traditional craftsmanship.” Objects like the Midnight side table embody this split spirit. Its flat surfaces feature a grid of pink lines and red dots in a field of green leaves inspired by historical marquetry. His conceptuality is balanced by creative looseness. The table, he says, “is a doodle I translated into 3D form.” —Laurie Lauletta-Boshart

▼ Midnight Side Table



SAN FRANCISCO / @MUD.WITCH

Mud Witch

Viviana Matsuda, the San Francisco designer behind ceramics studio Mud Witch, has built a community by making her practice about more than objects. She sees her pieces as ways to talk about broad social topics like body-size inclusivity. “Some of my early works were in skin tones like naked bodies,” Matsuda says. “What if we didn’t worry about how people perceived our bodies and made more space for ourselves?” Matsuda’s positive messaging and brightly colored cups and planters embellished with playful squiggles have won fans the world over. The designer has turned her studio’s social media channels into places where people from different countries can come together, and she plans to start workshops to help others learn how to make their own pieces. Matsuda says, “I want to create a safe space where people can thrive and learn freely.” —GG

► From top: Trippy Loop Mug, Squiggle Mug, and Daisy Mug



JOHANNESBURG / @THEURBANATIVE

TheUrbanative

Johannesburg designer Mpho Vackier of TheUrbanative sees herself first and foremost as a pragmatic person. That sensibility is what led to her career as an engineer working in South African mines. But a lifelong creative bent, nurtured by her mother, a seamstress, compelled Vackier to save enough money to return to school—while raising a child of her own—and to study interior design. Now, she uses her engineering know-how more creatively, developing new forms for furniture by blending shapes derived from European modernism with motifs from African design traditions from across the continent. The Oromo chair, for example, was largely inspired by the intricate lines of 19th-century Ethiopian and Kenyan hairstyles. “It was such a mind-blowing experience to understand what people did to their hair,” Vackier says of the research she did for the piece. “I infused the energy of those lines, textures, and forms into my work.” —GG

▲ Oromo Occasional Chair

PARIS / @SABOURINCOSTES

Sabourin Costes

"Right now, we're slightly obsessed with resin," says Zoé Costes, cofounder of Paris design practice Sabourin Costes. The material is perfectly suited for the studio's experiments with transparency and reflection, its mutability lending itself well to various colors and shapes. "It feels like a playground to us—we spend days making new color recipes and

testing different finishes," Costes says. Since joining forces in 2019, Costes and codesigner Paola Sabourin—who met at Design Academy Eindhoven seven years prior—have applied this whimsical approach to a range of products, including hardware, vases, and seating, like the stool from their Boudin collection (below). Another highlight of theirs is

Tribune, an interpretation of a *cabinet de curiosité*, where the shelf's high-gloss finish mirrors and appears to multiply the objects on it. "Even though the shelf can be relatively small, it is designed to have impact," Sabourin says. "We liked the idea of having something like a miniature piece of architecture hanging on the wall." —Laurie Lauletta-Boshart



PORTRAIT: EDOUARD ALJFRAY

WAYS I PROCRASTINATE...

If I want to procrastinate big time, I walk the entire length of L.A.'s Wilshire Boulevard—sixteen miles of divergent neighborhoods and architectural styles. I take a friend and make a day of it. A meal in K-Town is mandatory.

Thomas Musca, Cassius Castings

I like to cook. Every week I invent a new recipe. I like to lie in the sun with my cat. Read comic books. Play board games. Run. Eat ice cream on the beach.

Alex Rocca

THE EVERYDAY OBJECT I WOULD LIKE TO REDESIGN IS...

The fanny pack. I want to like it, but there are some major design flaws regarding size and position, which is why I made my own that I use every day.

Joyce Lin

A humane redesign of the cell phone, such that it returns to its original role as tool, rather than all-consuming, addictive, soul-crushing device. (I have a problem managing my phone usage, clearly.)

Sean Kim, Wooj

The face mask. If it were both effective and extremely comfortable, it wouldn't feel like a hassle to use it.

Tiffany Loy

MY HEROES IN DESIGN AND LIFE ARE...

Well, my fictional heroes are Tom and Jerry, but someone who gives without expecting something in return is a real-life hero.

Richard Yasmine

Nature. Everybody copies her.

Liane Alexis