

Creature Comforts

At 29, Los Angeles-based Nikolai and Simon Haas (fraternal twins) have made their shared name by doing custom creative construction, designing and making coffee tables, vases, and the like; their work has been tapped by celebrity creatives from Nicola Formichetti to Peter Marino. This spring, New York gallery R & Company featured their creature-like "Beast" daybeds, chairs, and stools, with crudely formed cast-bronze legs thatched with Icelandic sheepskin. By presenting "Beast" beside the work of studio furniture movement icon Wendell Castle, the gallery is introducing the brothers as the van of a new generation of studio design-artists. "Their practice is limitless," says R & Company co-founder Zesty Meyers. Shonquis Moreno



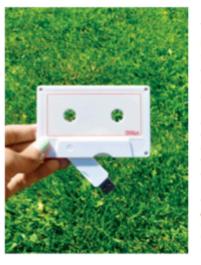
Replenishing Remedies

Lifestyle, whether it's diet, sleep, or emotional state, can be reflected in the skin's appearance, and it's for that reason that some skin-care brands are looking to address the root causes of our complexion woes. One such company is Miyu Beauty; inspired by the founder's family background in nutrition and traditional Chinese medicine, its holistic approach includes a remedy that works from within: Beauty Tea. Without forgoing topical treatments, Miyu Beauty also offers this tea paired with Beauty Essence, a facial mist that acts as a serum. For parched complexions, the Hydrate Mi pairing replenishes with goji berries and wild pansies, and for stressed skin, the De-Stress Mi pairing's peppermint, ginger, and licorice are a calming treat. Tia Low



French Connection

The Conran Shop, one of London's preferred concept design boutiques, looks no farther than across the English Channel to inspire its latest in-store collection, "A Season in France." On display until the end of June at the Conran Shop's Marylebone, Chelsea, and Paris boutiques, the curated selection of all things French-from the realms of art, design, food, and drink-stocks picnic essentials like mussel pots and lobster shell crackers, sweet lavender honey from Provence and jars of Jean Brunet pāté, and outdoor furnishings by Fermob and Temps Libre. The scent of Provence will linger throughout the Chelsea flagship store, too, as its living wall has been planted with bright purple lavender especially for the occasion, Katie Nanton



Music Lovers

Remember when someone professed affection for another with a custom mixed tape? Creating one took effort and dedication, to carefully play the cassette while simultaneously recording on another, Milktape Mixtape's USB cassettes are a modern-day version; loading them up is as easy as dragging and dropping MP3 files directly onto the device (each 128 MB drive can hold approximately 15 songs). But fret not the convenience, as the sentiment remains: cartridges can be personalized by adding handwritten notes on the case or stickered right onto the cassette. Founded in Victoria, B.C., by Sasan Aghdasi and Saman Farid, Milktape marries the ease of today's technology with yesterday's tradition-and is leading the charge on the mixtape renaissance. Sheila Lam