

SCENE

WRITTEN BY MAILE PINGEL



ONE TO WATCH

ATELIERXKM

Dubbed “haute couture furniture,” the furnishings of Los Angeles-based designer Kelly Martin pay homage to the sartorial set. The latest iterations of AtelierxKM, her bespoke line (available through Una Malan), riff on fashion-forward tailoring, pairing natural woods with blackened steel accents. Here, the designer shares her stylistic inspirations. atelierxkm.com

Tell us about your interest in fashion. Before going into interior design, I toyed with fashion—I was always sketching furniture or dresses. Once I started AtelierxKM conceptually, I wanted to find a way to marry furnishings and fashion.

Is there an emotional dimension to your pieces? My style is influenced by my grandmother, who was in the fashion world.

I inherited her Chanel coats and I love that personal connection. I wanted to create pieces that were similarly timeless.

How have your designs evolved? Through research into classic pieces by Dior and Chanel, as well as newer designers like Dion Lee. I figure out what parts of each designer I admire and play on that.

Tell us about your latest launches. The Dion coffee table accentuates its tailored form with construction cutouts; the Haider side table plays on darts and seaming; and the Pierre coffee table (shown left) is a take on Cardin’s avant-garde shapes. They’re made-to-order pieces, like painting commissions—there’s an appreciation for craftsmanship again.

TRANSFORMATION

THE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART SAN DIEGO

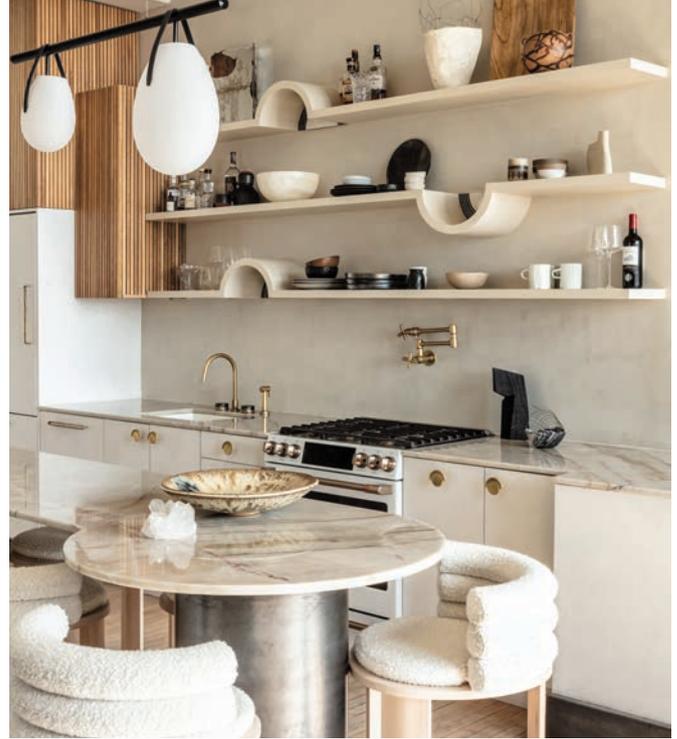
This April, the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego’s La Jolla campus reopens after a four-year, \$105-million renovation directed by Selldorf Architects. The expansion quadruples the previous gallery square footage, giving the museum enough space to display temporary exhibitions alongside its permanent collection—a first in its 80-year history. The inaugural show, “Niki de Saint Phalle in the 1960s,” is a collaboration with The Menil Collection and examines early works by the French artist. Meanwhile, the permanent galleries will display works from the 1960s and ’70s Light and Space art movement. Rounding out the redesign is a new café, terraces all around the oceanfront building and the conversion of a parking lot into a public art park. mcasd.org



ONE TO WATCH PHOTO: MEGHAN BOB.
TRANSFORMATION PHOTO: COURTESY SELLDORF ARCHITECTS.

OPEN HOUSE

THE LATEST OPENINGS OF LOCAL LUXURY SHOWROOMS ARE KEEPING SOCAL AT THE FOREFRONT OF THE DESIGN INDUSTRY.



AKER INTERIORS

In Los Angeles' Historic Core, a 1925 loft is now a combined showroom and studio for Aker Interiors. Designer Gabrielle Aker's vision for this renovation was to create an inviting, comfortable space to highlight her favorite vendors. "We partnered with the companies we love and that share our family-run firm's ethos of ethical, handcrafted design," she says. Pieces from Armadillo, Allied Maker and clé, just to name a few, are among a growing list of featured brands. akerinteriors.com

KALON STUDIOS

Sustainability-focused Kalon Studios' first showroom is now rooted in L.A.'s Atwater Village neighborhood. Co-founder Michael Simmering and partner Johannes Pauwen aim to use their new location—which includes a spacious rooftop—as a gathering and event space for the local creative community. Displayed alongside their own collections are pieces from local makers such as Adam Silverman, Bari Ziperstein, Ryosuke Yazaki, Ramsey Conder, Brendan Ravenhill, Victoria Morris, Lakes Studio and Common Body. kalonstudios.com



FIG + NASH

Mick Fox and Dino Raimondi, the duo behind Palm Springs design studio Fig + Nash, recently opened their second retail boutique. The new showroom, located on El Paseo in Palm Desert, features a variety of high-end furnishings, fine art, wall coverings, lighting and tabletop items—including Christofle silver, Lalique crystal and Baobab Collection candles. A library-like room is also home to a selection of Assouline titles. An upstairs loft space doubles as a design studio helmed by Gabriela Helesicova, the firm's managing designer, who oversees model and private home projects in the area. figandnash.com

KVADRAT

Danish textile brand Kvadrat has opened its second U.S. location in L.A.'s Arts District, cementing its longstanding partnership with French designers Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec. The new outpost, designed with an interior structure of sustainably grown Douglas fir, includes work zones on the upper level and social spaces on the main floor. Its walls are lined with shelving and hanging systems by the Bouroullec brothers and with textile panels by Erwan. The design is focused on materiality, color and engineering—all cornerstones of the brand. kvadrat.dk