

## Design

# Process of Illumination

It started with some Italy-bound light fixtures designed by students at the School of the Art Institute. Suddenly we realized: Exceptional design is all around us. So we surveyed the scene and came up with this mix of objects by emerging and established talent.

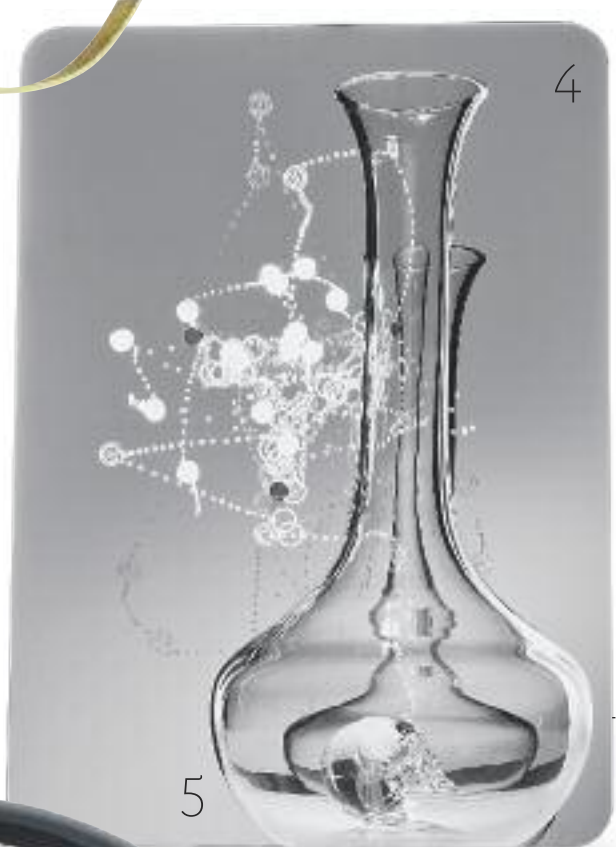
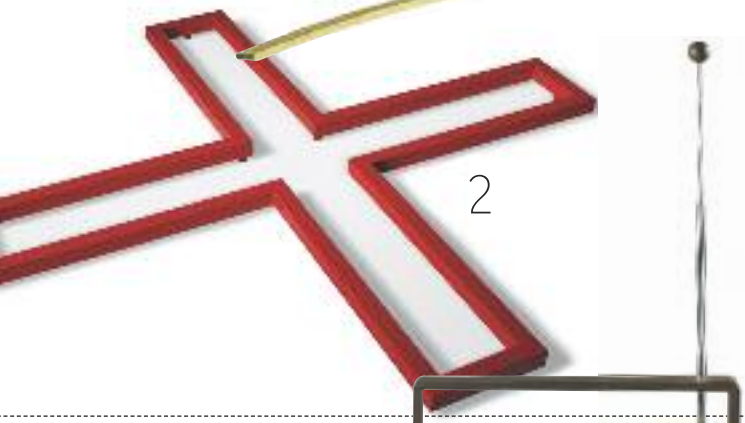
BY BARRI LEINER  
AND REBECCA LITTLE

★ Shireen Bishop makes her **Mirage chandelier** from a crocheted aluminum ball chain and LED lights. Caroline Linder embeds LEDs in **Leaning 2x4s**. Both are graduate students at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

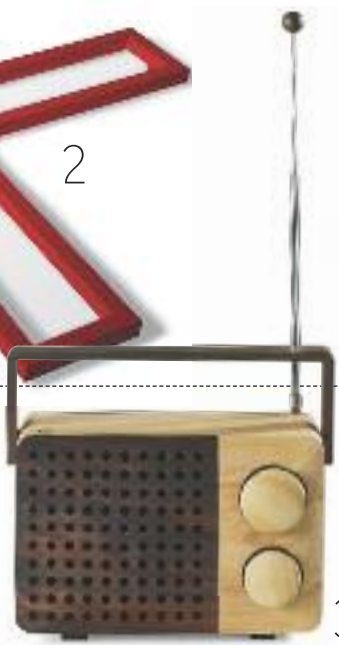
★ Emerging Chicago design duo Caleb Dawson and Shawn Gnann call themselves Roscoe Jackson after their dogs. Their ultra ergonomic **Asterisk stools** are built with recycled plastic. Tall asterisk in gray, \$475, short asterisk in green, \$425, by order at 662-392-2330 or [roscoejackson.com](http://roscoejackson.com)



**1** Created out of natural woods by San Francisco-based **Adrift Mobiles**, these minimal stunners are not just for kids. From \$148 to \$258, at Post27, 1819 W. Grand Ave.; 312-829-6122 and [adriftmobiles.com](http://adriftmobiles.com) **2** This **fruit bowl** by deconstructionist designer Ron Gilad makes a great conversation starter. Gilad for Designfzider, \$350 for no. 8 design (pictured here), at [unicahome.com](http://unicahome.com)



**3** Retro simplicity combines with modern function in this **AM/FM radio** hand-made in Indonesia using sustainable wood. Magno Personal Wooden Radio, \$178, at Pivot, 1101 W. Fulton Market; 312-243-4754, [pivotboutique.com](http://pivotboutique.com)



**4,5** For her **Strangers mirrors**, the School of the Art Institute of Chicago prof Helen Maria Nugent traced the way our eyes look at a stranger's face. Laser-etched acrylic mirror, \$1,200, at Hej fina, 1529 N. Milwaukee Ave.; 773-772-0002. Pictured with the **Esque skull decanter**, \$1,095, at June Blaker, 870 N. Orleans St.; 312-751-9220 **6,7** Designed by architect Greg Lynn, these sculptural **espresso cups** fit ergonomically in the hand. Alessi Supple set, \$88 for two, Alessi. Pictured with a sleek, stylized **vacuum** by Stefano Giovannoni for Alessi, \$158. At Alessi, 611 N. State St.; 312-274-6500

PHOTOGRAPHY: ALL BLACKBOX STUDIOS, INC., EXCEPT 1, 5, 10, 13

**TREND SPOTTING** New moms, delight: There's a crop of stylish new baby stores. We love **Twinkle Twinkle Little One** (3224 N. Damen Ave.), a furniture, bedding, and décor boutique in Roscoe Village, and the eco-minded duo **Green Genes** (5111 N. Clark St.) and **Little Green Baby** (4654 N. Rockwell St.). . .

8



8 From Chicago designer Matthew Hoffman's **Signs series**: "Keep It Real," in 18k-gold paint on zebrawood, \$300; "Hug It Out," on bamboo, \$300; and "It's OK," in basswood, \$20. At [multipolarprojects.com](http://multipolarprojects.com) or 312-919-0036



10 Flexible yet comfortable, the **Spring chair** from Modern Bamboo comes in shades of amber, cherry, and ebony. From \$690, at Grasshopper 510, 1944 N. Damen Ave.; 773-292-0510



10



12

11 Chicago designer Hillery Estes teamed up with Meredith Smercheck to make these **pillows** in leather and linen, but she'll drum up something custom if you ask. Estes Interiors pillows, \$275 each, at Zella Brown, 1444 N. Milwaukee; 773-276-1746

12 The **Eva Solo flowerpot** eliminates the need for a green thumb. Fill the reservoir once a week and the specially designed nylon threads draw water up to the plant when it needs a drink. From \$50 to \$56, at Sprout Home, 745 N. Damen; 312-226-5950, [sprouthome.com](http://sprouthome.com) 13 The stunning **Black Gold coffeepot** from Ineke Hans brings a dose of industrial-inspired design to any setting. \$390, at [mossonline.com](http://mossonline.com)

11



9 Green Bay-based designer John Blomstrom made this **table** out of custom-cast acrylic components. Cool thing is, he can do the same in a rainbow of colors. \$700 each, at Haus, 5405 N. Clark St.; 773-769-4000



9



13

**Want to play designer, but don't know where to start?** The MCA holds a Jeff Koons-inspired class in moldmaking on Aug. 2nd. Make a mold of an ordinary object, cast it, then take it home for show. \$45, [mcachicago.org](http://mcachicago.org)