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INTERIORS+DESIGN®

PACIFIC NORTHWEST



SCENE

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ON VIEW

“IKAT: A WORLD OF COMPELLING CLOTH”

Often highly labor intensive to produce, the complex geometric patterns and bold colors of ikat fabrics are created not by applying patterns to the surface of a finished fabric, but instead by dyeing individual parts of yarns before they are woven into textiles. This spring, the Seattle Art Museum (SAM) explores this compelling and intricate world of ikat in an exhibit featuring more than 100 ikats spanning the last three centuries, including many from SAM's global permanent collection. “This exhibition helps visitors recognize where ikat has come from in different places around the world,” says Pam McClusky, the museum's curator of African and Oceanic art. On view until May 29, the exhibit also features a new floor-to-ceiling installation by contemporary textile artists Rowland and Chinami Ricketts. “While most of us consider cloth a medium to serve our functional needs, ikat reminds us that it can also carry messages of security, blessings and sanctuary,” McClusky says. “I think that's worth reflecting on.” seattleartmuseum.org

ONE TO WATCH

CASEY KEASLER, CASEWORK

Interior designer Casey Keasler believes design has the power to transform. From her Portland-based studio Casework, Keasler and her nimble team are steadily amassing a portfolio of residential and commercial projects, all designed with an eye to the future. Creating interiors that highlight opportunities for growth and possibility, Keasler is a self-described forward thinker. Her bright and bold yet clean and composed designs establish a vibrant launch pad for life to unfold. casework.it

Tell us about your background in design.

I grew up on a construction site. Literally. For the first 13 years of my life, home was an 1860s Victorian my parents bought, gutted to the studs, and remodeled DIY-style. I loved the process so much that I got a degree in interior design, then spent a decade honing my craft at commercial architecture firms.

Why did you launch your own firm?

I wanted to bring more meaning to the interiors I touch. As the business grew, I also wanted to provide a place for young designers to develop their voice.

How would you summarize your design philosophy?

One of our most common refrains in the studio is function. It's one thing if something is beautiful, but if it's not functional, and the countertop stains on the first day, then what's the point? It has to work with how you live your life.

What's on the horizon?

Casework has a lot of residential work in older homes on the boards, as well as an exciting hotel and hospitality concept in Oregon wine country.



ON VIEW PHOTO: COURTESY COLLECTION OF DAVID AND MARTA PALY.
ONE TO WATCH PHOTOS: VIGNETTE, GEORGE BARBERIS; PORTRAIT, NICOLE MASON.

ROAD TRIP

JUST A SHORT FERRY RIDE FROM SEATTLE, WHIDBEY ISLAND IS A BURGEONING DESIGN DESTINATION.



GRAYHORSE MERCANTILE

Part home goods shop, part specialty foods store, Grayhorse Mercantile is a treasure trove of handmade, artisanal wares and provisions. "I wanted to be a resource for the local Whidbey community," says purveyor Jennifer Sadinsky, who took inspiration from her grandmother's knack for cooking and entertaining when conceiving of Grayhorse. The name is also a family affair. "My great-uncle Van adored horse racing and would travel the world going to every racetrack he could. He instilled an appreciation of horses and their beauty in our family." Displayed amongst vintage furnishings, many of which are family heirlooms, Sadinsky's wares are sure to become new family treasures. grayhorsemercantile.com



ALMA

For years, mother-daughter duo Kelly Sorensen Hansen and Diane Sorensen dreamed of opening a store together. When their families both landed in Langley on the south end of Whidbey Island in 2021, their dream became a reality with Alma, a warm and welcoming shop offering eco-minded clothing, toys and family essentials. Heritage touches of aged

barnwood paneling, antique furniture and soft lighting shape out the cozy space, and you can't help but linger. "We want to be the friendly place for the whole family to hang out, play and discover small sustainable brands that use ethically sourced natural materials," Sorensen Hansen says. "Whether clothing, toys, vintage finds or other essentials, we focus on quality over quantity." almalangley.com



CAPTAIN WHIDBEY INN

Nestled among old fir trees along Penn Cove, Captain Whidbey Inn is a historic resort anchored by a stone-and-log main lodge built in 1907. Over the years, the property has been a boarding house, post office and girls' school, until 2018 when brothers Mike and Matt French—along with designer Eric Cheong—took over and restored it to its former glory as a hotel. Modern touches include a restaurant and bar program by Chef Sean Prater and a collection of stand-alone cabins. A newly opened wellness studio and barrel sauna bring the hotel into the 21st century. "Each log and stone holds stories from the past hundred years but also the current moment," Cheong says. captainwhidbey.com



OPEN HOUSE

SCHOOLHOUSE

It's been a banner year for Portland-based lighting and lifestyle brand Schoolhouse. After being acquired by Food52 during the pandemic, the company's Northwest Portland flagship store underwent a major transformation. Located on the ground floor of their factory and headquarters, the revamped space recently reopened as a showroom, design studio and community gathering hub. Schoolhouse's modern-retro furniture, hardware and soft goods now each have their own designated home in the space, and a dedicated new lighting studio showcases the brand's cult-favorite designs. "We wanted to make the customer journey through the store

more of a discovery experience," explains Abe Manion, Schoolhouse's vice president of customer experience. On-staff interior stylists will offer design guidance to customers, and a new gathering area provides a place for visitors to meet and come together. "We hope the space serves as a source of inspiration, and a terrific way to spend an afternoon strolling through and taking in our products in real life," Manion says. While much has changed for Schoolhouse of late, the brand's commitment to creating lasting, quality pieces remains. "What has stayed the same is our mission to provide a new generation of heirlooms that inspire unique, meaningful spaces." schoolhouse.com

TALKING SHOP

KAT + MAOUCHE

For nearly two decades, Katen Bush and Latif Bezzir have been collecting vintage Berber rugs from the mountains of Morocco. The couple began amassing their collection while living in Algeria, and after relocating to Portland, decided to open a gallery to showcase and share the colorful, artful textiles. Today, Kat + Maouche is a Northwest source for authentic Moroccan rugs, but for Bush and Bezzir, the gallery is as much about the human stories behind this time-honored craft. Here, Bush shares their story. katandmaouche.com

Why did you open Kat + Maouche? We started collecting Berber textiles 20 years ago, and when we moved to Portland, we realized a gallery would let us keep a foot in both worlds. We had by then spent a lot of time in Morocco and saw an opportunity to showcase Berber rugs as a way to share such a rich culture to the Northwest.

How do you source your rugs? This is the heart of what we do. Berber is primarily a rural, female art, and we work hard to find rugs in the mountain regions where they are made. We focus on provenance and the cultural information the rugs carry. Latif travels widely through Morocco looking for rugs that show the depth and wonderful creativity of Berber culture.

What's your best tip on how to incorporate Moroccan rugs into a space? Just go for it. Each piece is unique. The dimensions are often odd. The colors can be wild. People want rules, but we don't have any. Of course, they have to fit in your space, so there is a practical side, but we are here for the art of it. That gives you permission to break the rules.



OPEN HOUSE PHOTO: COURTESY SCHOOLHOUSE. TALKING SHOP PHOTOS: AARON MARINEAU.