Material matters: I have a deep commitment to challenging what I consider to be beautiful, and mostly, I find it in nature. A block of volcanic ash embedded in a floating iceberg, for example, is nature’s perfect abstract sculpture. It often points me to think about how inanimate it is—a phenomenon almost not worth trying to imitate. But, that’s what I try to do with my designs. I’m definitely interested... In luxury; not in the high-brow-Piazza-Hotel kind, but more of the upscale-farm furniture-maker genius type. I want things that don’t exist yet. To me, a statement piece... is a work of art disguised as design—something more capable of shifting one’s perceptions, and less about function and utility. Hero worship: I surround myself with extraordinary minds. As far as revering one person goes, though, I think we take little bits from many people, and follow a weird, wavy path to our own sense of self.

ON HUE

THE PIECE: Escapa Bench
THE DESIGNER: Fernando Mastrangelo
FIND IT: mastrangelo.com
THE INSPIRATION: Using unassuming materials (salt, sand and sugar) and overflowing with seemingly boundless ideas and energy, New York’s Fernando Mastrangelo has quickly and deservedly carved a name for himself in the contemporary art landscape. Each one of the designer and sculptor’s creations is a love letter to Mother Nature, with the Escapa bench serving as an a-nudge to the sunset and the magical color of an evening sky.