STEP RIGHT IN
Perfection in Paris
Michael S. Smith
Takes Malibu
The Insider's Guide
to New York
SHOPPING

CABINETRY COUTURE
A cheat sheet to the city’s kitchen-system options

- Champagne-colored steel illustrates Arcinaco’s innovative eye for Italian elegance. arcinaco.com
- Bulthaup is the leader in pairing German functionality with beautiful simplicity. bulthaup.com
- The curvy new Zaha Hadid Cove island pushes the envelopes of Boffi’s modern look. boffi.com
- Venetian-based Cesar+ collections span decorative to minimal, often with props of color. cesarit
- Floating cabinetry evokes movement in Midcentury Group’s kitchen line, Enea. enea.com
- The prolific powerhouse Scavolini offers a wide range of designer-driven systems. scavoliniusa.com
- Traditional wood cabinetry is updated by British firm Smallbone of Devizes. smallbone.com
- The clean lines of Poliform’s Varenna convey understated sophistication. varennausa.com
- Danish brand Vipp adds industrial style to modular systems. vipp.com

Ask the Insider

Alexandra Champalimaud
The Carlyle Hotel designer on gallery owners

“Brazilian modern brand Espasso (espasso.com) just opened a vintage annex around the corner from my gallery, and it has a lot of auction-worthy treasures, including some Jaquein Torensio armchairs, which we’re purchasing for a residence in Vail. The Future Perfect (thefutureperfect.com) also created a terrific space in a nearby walk-up, which features rotating collections, such as the La Espada. The walls were painted Millennium Pink with all-white furniture.”

Two streets serve as hubs: Greene and Wooster. On the former, Alessi (alessi.com) shows whimsical tableware, while furniture brand Molteni&C (moltenit.com) expertly mixes classic with contemporary. On Wooster, Poltrona Frau (poltronafrau.com), Cassina (cassina.com), and Cappellini (cappellini.it) present high-minded Italian design. Nearby, Dom Interiors (dominteriors.com) hosts Rimadesio’s line of flawless sliding doors and other hard-to-find brands. –S.Z.
INSIDE SOURCES

YOUR PALS FROM PARIS

An emerging French design practice is becoming a hush-hush hit in Manhattan.

Sitting in his Paris apartment at a green marble coffee table of his own design and drinking iced tea from an antique crystal goblet, Nathan Litner explains why New Yorkers looking for a touch of Europe in their décor have been passing around his name. "I studied the classic vocabulary of architecture, Italian and French, and we are living in it every day," he says. "We try to convey a certain way of life," adds Laynt Samama, his partner in work and life. It's a way that reflects Litner's adolescence living on Paris's most beautiful square, the Place des Vosges, and the couple's passion for Old World elegance. The two met 17 years ago and went to New York to study. After finishing his architecture degree at Cooper Union, Litner, 35, worked for Kohn Pedersen Fox, then in Paris for Jean Nouvel and Josep Llurdes, before joining his own firm with Samama, 32, a former lawyer, in 2014. Since then they've completed almost half a dozen luxury New York residences in a sophisticated European style, frequently relying on French specialists in decorative painting, wood floors, wallpapering, and upholstery.

For a recent $4.5 million toe-forty-townhouse on the Upper East Side, Litner added decorative molding to the walls and ceilings and placed the rooms in a typically Parisian entablature, lining up their edges in rows while covering the ceiling of the enclosed sitting room in silver leaf applied by French decorative painters Ateliers Gobard. When he wants mirrors with antique patina, Litner turns to Kiko Lopez, an artist who lives on a farm in Provence and crafts them to commission with mirrors, nathanlitner.com—Jay Swafflin

Fernando Mastrangelo mixes materials such as powdered glass and cement to create rock-solid pieces in his Brooklyn workshop. His Escape collection, shown at Maison Gerard, includes this bookshelf ($65,000). He also accepts commissions, maisongerard.com, fernandomastrangelo.com.

ASK THE INSIDER

TONY INGRAO
The Broward designer of the Barcelona Hotel & Residences expands on his city's offerings. For inspiration he likes R & F Company ( Greenwood.com) and Friedman Benda (friederim.com). "They have exceptional furniture collections from great designers, including Wendell Castle and Joni Lenz." He cites Twenty-First Gallery (twentyfirst.com) as an underrated place that stocks things you can't get elsewhere. "It's out on its own in Chelsea, away from the other furniture galleries, but you can find truly special pieces, such as mirrors by Hubert Le Gall." He thinks Ralph Pucci (ralphpucci.com) is an iconic gallery that can't be missed. "It started as a mannequin business and grew to become the quintessential New York showroom." And as an artist he recommends Atelier Charles Jouraffe (ateliercharlesjouraffe.com), finding "pivotal French upholstery."