

NEW HOMES & CONDOS



From the Brabuu design collection at the recent Maison Object show in Miami Beach. A lot of the designs stem from a desire to be unique.

Design show puts a new twist on things



EVELYN ESHUN

DESIGNING WITH STYLE

As the sexy and artsy seaside city of Miami Beach celebrated its 100th birthday, the first ever Maison Objet show opened its doors from May 12 to 15 for professionals in the design industry.

It was the perfect venue for a trade show which prides itself on presenting innovative, new and unique products as well as informative seminars to the interior design and décor industry.

I was looking forward to the show from the moment I heard about it months ago and the fact that it was being held in Miami, one of my favourite cities, made it that much eas-

unique city which blends art, cultural diversity and forward thinking. It is afraid of nothing and bringing in this unique show, which had its inception in Paris 20 years ago, was a wonderful addition to the roster of design trade shows in North America.

The Maison Objet show brings professionals who are in the 'art of living' together and offers them solutions, concepts, products and services from all around the globe to take and use in their everyday projects.

Having been to the Paris show a number of years ago, I remembered the overwhelming and incredibly inspiring

ier for me to say 'yes, I must attend this show!' Miami is an exceptionally

experience I had and there was no doubt in my mind that I would leave Miami with a new sense of knowledge and passion for my profession. I was not disappointed.

Besides having the privilege of attending informative seminars where speakers such as Karim Rashid, Kelly Hoppen, David Rockwell and Yabu Pushelberg shared their knowledge and experience, it was wonderful to meet craftspeople and manufacturers from all over the world who are creating unique products which make our spaces more functional as well as beautiful. Though I saw many products which caught my eye, there was a certain theme I noticed:

- attention to detail, high level of craftsmanship, a strong mid-century modern design influence;
- metals combined with highly polished woods, lac-

quers and animal skin textures;

- metal shaped and molded into unique wall sconces to create a sculptural element as well as provide light;
- metal spun into beautiful patterns to be used like fabric as well as combined as an accent to wood and glass;
- natural materials used to express organic shapes
- a general sense of glamour and desire to be unique and

individual in one's expression through décor products.

I was enchanted by a company called Opiary, which provides the most interesting planters and furnishings that literally bring the outdoors in and the indoors out by providing a place to include plants within the furnishing — very unique.

With over 300 exhibitors, this three-day show is relatively small but it makes up

for it with its diversity of quality products that will go a long way to contributing to our client's projects. I'm sure my fellow design professionals would agree.

— Evelyn Eshun is a Toronto-based interior designer with more than 15 years experience creating custom design projects for the residential market. Visit her at www.evelyneshun.com.



Metals combine with highly polished woods to create a uniquely sculptured mid-century modern look.

One of several products that caught Evelyn Eshun's eye. From the Brabuu design collection.



The strong influence of metal, spun into a number of different patterns and designs, could be seen throughout the four-day show in Miami Beach, Fla.