

BEA PILA

This market Bea Pila introduced Hide & Seek with her daughter Gabriela Noelle on her own. She also has designed furniture for Tomlinson, Whitecraft Rattan, Silverline and Woodard.

"My Classic Icons" is Pila's tagline for her new collection. She describes it as character pieces that are the missing links of the design trade.

"My goal was to establish a style, bringing acrylic back to the elegance that it has lost over the years," she says. "It is reminiscent of designs like those of Vladimir Kagan and other mid-century designers that never go out of style."

The acrylic Player's Chair, which resembles the iconic Barcelona chair designed by Mies van der Rohe in 1929, is her favorite. The 60-by-60-inch Levitas coffee table was a big hit because of its scale and acrylic accents.

"They are definitely jewelry for the home," Pila says. "They can make a clean lined sofa look like a million bucks."

One of her favorites at the fall market was the 114-inch long Ocean Drive sofa in her Miami Nice Collection for Directional. It features deep seating and streamlined arms that look very modern without being cold. Other pieces in the collection, which was expanded this market, have details such as leather strapping that Pila compares to Fendi and Louis Vuitton designer shoes and handbags.

"Tomlinson's contemporary for Directional was beautiful and it still has a lot of validity but it was not in keeping with the Miami market, which is more advanced in contemporary design," she says. "I was asked to review and tweak the designs, modernize them and give my own input. The designs were influenced by my own work in Miami and trends that are so popular here. I used those ideas and expanded what they were missing."

MICHAEL WOLK

Michael Wolk has designed for more than 50 companies and 20 are active. Among them are Carter, Directional, Wyman, Interlude Home, American Leather, DIA, Johnson Casuals and Rosenbaum Fine Art. He is also working on designing an outdoor line for Pavilion.

His motto: "OK is not OK and good enough is never good enough."

Wolk visits the factory and makes changes to the prototype so that the piece meets his standards. His contemporary furniture not only looks good, it's also comfortable. He sits on the furniture and may make adjustments to the foam density or the curve of the metal.

"My input is 110 percent because I am the author," he says. "That is not variable. What is variable is some manufacturers get involved more than others. I am a proven entity and am not going to bring them designs that can't be built or have no resonance in the marketplace."

Highlights of this spring's market from DIA are the Jolly barstools with a plated steel finish and elegant curves as well as Orion, a sculptural coffee table with round glass top and a base of three chrome-plated circles. His new pieces from Johnson Casual include Domino, a dinette with an attractive laser cut circular pattern on the chair backs, and Cambridge, which features a metal chair reminiscent of a classic Windsor with elegant tapered metal legs.

Wolk created prints for Rosenbaum featuring chairs, baskets and boxes. He calls his hand sketches of furniture Conversation Pieces because each piece of furniture is unique and the pieces look like they are having a conversation.

"Every time at bat you can either strike out or hit a home run," he says explaining how he feels with his designs. "I just hope it is a home run."

JACK PHILLIPS

Jack Phillips was frustrated because he was unable to find furniture he liked that fit the spaces he designed. Many pieces he found locally were outrageously expensive and had a long delivery time.

"Nobody wants to wait 16 weeks for a snack table," he says. "They don't want to wait 16 weeks to finish their whole house."

It was his frustration plus a chance meeting with the folks at EJ Victor while working with a client in North Carolina that led to their collaboration. The result



B. PILA DESIGN STUDIO

Bea Pila's Levitas table was a huge hit at the High Point Market because of its large size and acrylic accents.