

THE NEW WEST COAST SOPHISTICATION

Pacific coastal style is moving away from its rustic modern traditions as B.C. designers embrace a sleek and minimalist aesthetic — and they're finding a global audience for their creations. In curating this list of West Coast designers, we turned to Iván Meade, the principal designer and founder of Meade Design Group. Along with his own internationally acclaimed work in interior, graphic and industrial design, Meade has interviewed hundreds of the world's foremost designers for his blog LIFEMSTYLE. Here are some of the local names you need to know.

OMER ARBEL

If you're looking for a West-Coast based international design superstar, look no further than Omer Arbel. The head of Omer Arbel Office (OAO) and creative director of Bocci, Arbel works within the disciplines of architecture, sculpture, invention and design. He is known for experimenting with the mechanical, physical and chemical qualities of the materials he uses, as well as his exploration of light as a medium.

"He is the best example of West Coast sophistication on the international scene," Meade says. "His products are considered iconic by international standards, and they are designed and created here."

Along with the studio in Vancouver, Bocci opened a satellite headquarters and showroom in a former Berlin courthouse. Inside Bocci 79 — as the building is called — visitors can discover the complete range of Arbel's pieces, including prototypes, experiments and works in progress, as well as Bocci's complete range of finished products.

Shown here: Bocci 26 Semi-Rigid

