

CURRENTS



BUILT

Bringing Modernism Home

Alain de Botton, the Swiss-born essayist who lives in London, founded a nonprofit group called Living Architecture in 2009 with a simple goal. "I want people to experience modern domestic architecture," Mr. de Botton said. "What's lacking in the U.K. are publicly accessible homes. The few modern houses that exist are almost all in private hands and cannot be visited."

The first of the five homes the group has commissioned — all of which will be available year-round for vacation rentals — recently opened to the public.

The Balancing Barn, a gleaming aluminum structure with a mostly plywood interior, designed by the Dutch architecture firm MVRDV, is the antithesis of Victorian architecture with its enclosed stuffy rooms. Cantilevered over a steep piece of land near Thorington, in Suffolk, the house is nearly 100 feet long, with oversize windows, four bedrooms and bathrooms, and an open living area at tree height.

The house sleeps up to eight people, and the first available date is Jan. 17; information: living-architecture.co.uk.

ELAINE LOU

FURNITURE

A French Urban Planner's First Collection for Holly Hunt

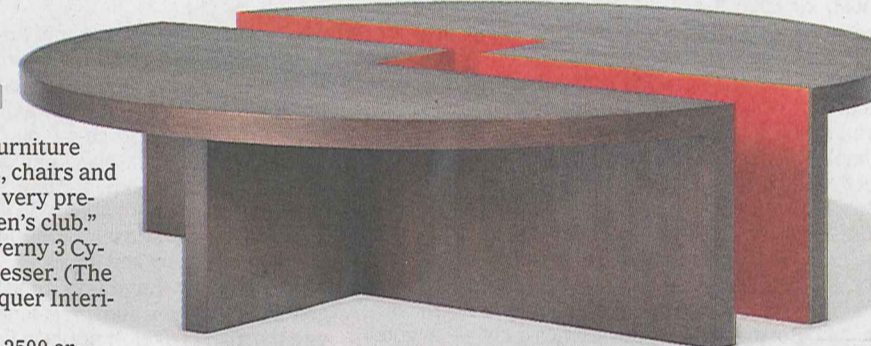
Holly Hunt took the design world by surprise when she announced earlier this year that her showroom's 17-year relationship with Christian Liaigre would end as of June 2011. There was much speculation about whom Ms. Hunt would find to replace the wildly successful designer.

Jean-Michel Wilmotte might be the man. He and Ms. Hunt have known each other for more than 20 years. Ms. Hunt sold tables that Mr. Wilmotte designed for Mirak in the 1980s. And last week, the French archi-

tect and urban planner introduced his first furniture collection for her: 18 pieces, including tables, chairs and lamps. Ms. Hunt calls it "very architectural, very precise" and "very handsome, like a modern men's club."

Prices range from about \$2,800 for the Giverny 3 Cylindrical Sconce to \$29,925 for the De Stijl Dresser. (The Secret Round Low Table in Walnut with Lacquer Interior, right, is \$12,300.)

Holly Hunt, 150 East 58th Street, (212) 891-2500 or hollyhunt.com.



RIMA SUQI



Sales on Furniture, Bedding

Selected floor samples are up to 70 percent off at **Karkula** through Nov. 25 (PK8 chairs by Poul Kjaerholm, regularly \$1,180, are \$590; a Walnut Desk with Aluminum Shaker base, originally \$5,710, is \$2,855; and the Arne Jacobsen Lily Chair 3208, regularly \$2,150, is \$860); 48 Walker Street (Church Street), (212) 645-2216, karkula.com.

Modernica, the Los Angeles furniture store, has discounts of 10 to 80 percent during its 48-hour online sale, from midnight Friday to midnight Sunday (the George Nel-

son medium saucer Bubble Lamp, originally \$329, will be about \$300; the Eiffel Tower wire chair, above, regularly \$215, will be \$172; the Case Study Daybed, originally \$1,793, will be about \$1,615).

At **Pine Cone Hill's** new online outlet, bedding, throw pillows and sleepwear are discounted 50 to 80 percent (a full/queen-size Coco Quilt, originally \$348, is \$174; a twin-size Polka Dot Multi Duvet, regularly \$84, is \$42); information: pineconehilloutlet.com.

RIMA SUQI

Good deals may be reported to deals@nytimes.com.



DONNA ALBERICO FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

OPEN

Italian Kitchens, SoHo Style

Scavolini, the Italian kitchen manufacturer, chose New York City as the place to open its first American retail showroom, although homes here generally are not known for their large kitchens. "That's true," said Francesco Farina, chief executive officer of Scavolini USA. "But our products are very modular, so we can offer big kitchens for big houses, like the ones in Long Island, the Hamptons or New Jersey, and we can also offer urban kitchens."

The company, based in Pesaro, Italy, on the Adriatic, offers 40 different styles of kitchens, with 350 finish options for 500 cabinet doors (most are clean and

modern, but there are a few traditional designs). Fifteen kitchen styles are on display in the 10,000-square-foot SoHo showroom, designed by SpaCe Architects, along with one fully functional kitchen: Flux, above, by Giugiaro Design, which will be used for cooking demonstrations. The showroom will also carry countertops and appliances from Miele, Wolf, Gaggenau, Smeg, Faber and Elica.

Scavolini, 429 West Broadway (Prince Street), (212) 219-0910, scavolinisohogallery.com.

RIMA SUQI



DÉCOR

Accessories With Brooklyn Soul

Jeanine Hays, who has a day job as a policy associate for the Family Violence Prevention Fund, a California nonprofit group, created **AphroChic**, a design blog and online home-goods emporium, as a vehicle for what she calls "soulful style." For the Brooklyn Renaissance Collection (her second), that means pillows, wallpaper and shower curtains in sharp African kuba prints, as well as pillows, above, printed with the winsome watercolors of Samantha Hahn, a Brooklyn artist.

Ms. Hahn imagined four style icons: women from Fort Greene, Park Slope, Boerum Hill and Clinton Hill (\$105 each). Rather than aiming for a microcultural stereotype, she was after a certain aesthetic, she said: "Like a Brooklyn design blogger — she's urban, she likes music and flea markets, she wants to come home and put her feet up in her chic brownstone with its midcentury furniture. The girls are interchangeable. You could put them in any of those neighborhoods. They are all the new bohemians."

For information on the full collection (photographed in the Prospect Park limestone town house of the photographer, Melanie Acevedo): aphrochic.com.

PENELOPE GREEN