

Design Show is a delight to the senses



PAUL SEMKULEY LIVING IN STYLE

The Toronto Interior Design Show, now in its 17th year, was holding high court this past weekend at the Toronto Convention Center, offering leading brands, up-and-coming design talent, in addition to celebrated and innovative speakers. This year's guest of honour was Wanda Jelmini, creative director of Missoni Home, celebrating the iconic brand's 60th anniversary.

IDS 2015 had much to offer the hot and burgeoning market of interior design, decorating and renovation. Like most shows of this kind, you can expect to find the newest and cutting-edge products in the market. Even if you aren't in the position to renovate or redecorate, this show can bring you a wealth of inspiration for your future projects.

As an interior decorator and stylist I am always looking for new and inventive ways to interpret design. The Studio North and Prototype area

of the show is my first place to start. There were three exhibitors here that really caught my eye and have categorized them as "sculptured illumination":

- **Atelier Nomade.** Alex Jowetts unique design and interpretations of reclaimed



Made from natural and organic materials, these side tables from Quake Furniture make a unique statement.

materials was beautifully executed with his "love" rope light, giving this soft word a new and distinct artistic element to a light source. The black rope is 15' long with a single light socket, wrapped in leather and a copper fitting at the wired end, that could be hardwired to a junction box, should you wish to create your own hang-

ing sculptural light source.

- **WOODSTONEMETAL Inc.** Tomas Berinstein, is a designer of some pretty impressive cabinetry and furniture. However, it was his reclaimed Ceasarstone cast off pieces that wooed me into his booth. Using these discarded and otherwise useless pieces of quartz, WSM, has been able to craft several designs, including my favorite, one that resembles a mobile. (On a side note to his furniture, his small wood and glass tables are perfectly proportioned with curved mitred through-dovetail joinery. Lovely.)

- **Aerelight.** Michael Helander, Ray Kwa, Colin Merkel are a trio of designers and engineers, creating the world's first consumer-ready lamp to use an Organic LED (OLED). The ultra-thin and clean linear lines of this lamp give a new meaning to the modern light. The light is cool to the touch and most importantly is soft on the eyes. It features 7W, touch



The Aerelight is the world's first consumer-ready lamp to use organic LED technology.

control, three dimmable settings, with an optional wireless charging base for your mobile devices. It is available in black, silver and red.

Other exhibitors that have inspired me and would like to use in some of my future client projects are:

- **Lightmaker Studio.** Denise Mead and Michael Stamler bring a mid-century design aesthetic to their well-curated collection of lighting. Using high quality materials of solid brass and hand blown glass, this lighting brings us a vintage feel without being contrived. Available in blackend, brushed, vintage, distressed and natural brass.

- **Tony Koukos Photography.** Art meets function in the use of his graffiti photography for glass backsplashes. I love how this design can bring a whole new level layering when designing a room, in conjunction with the underutilized flat surfaces found in our homes.



Grffiti photography serves as the backdrop for this glass backsplash. From Tony Koukos Photography.

- **Lisa Turner's Quake Furniture Inc.** Turner is influenced by natural and organic environments, and re-interprets them into sculptural pieces of pattern, rhythm and line. Her Juan de Fuca coffee table is a state-

a stainless steel square tubing frame.

- **JC Bordelet** suspended metallic fireplaces bring the avant-garde to this unique and modern fireplace. The cantilevered Potence fireplace adds that unexpected sculptured element, without taking away from the purpose of the product.

My experience of the Interior Design Show was invigorating and encouraging. It has had an underlying theme of light and sculpture. These two, of many design elements, are what makes a space unique, interesting and inspiring. Light forms

don't necessarily need to be in the standard form or material like we know them. Technology and ingenuity bring us something new, with a sculpted philosophy. This is where we need to appreciate the designers that create these new ideas and products, and we in turn, need to support and use them in our homes and design projects.

— **Paul Semkuley is principal of Re:Source Lifestyle, a Toronto-based interior design firm. Visit him at www.resource-lifestyles.com.**



JC Bordelet brings an avant-garde look to a fireplace with its unique sculptured design.



Paul Semkuley found lots to inspire at this year's Interior Design Show. Photo by Stephanie Buchman.