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# products collaborations

Four design firms share the inspiration behind their new collections

By Alissa Ponchione



## ALDA LY ARCHITECTURE x HBF TEXTILES

For its first product collection, New York firm Alda Ly Architecture (ALA) teamed up with HBF Textiles to create the timeless Bao line of six different poufs that provide flexibility in any environment. With versatility top of mind, “they were not only designing for us but also with their clients and projects in mind,” says Casey Baxter, vice president and general manager at HBF and HBF Textiles. Imbued with rounded shapes, a calming color palette, and natural materials, a subtle geometry is woven throughout the pieces. “We knew from the start that we wanted to work with solid wood as we love the warmth and texture of it in our projects, and HBF has a long history of artisan craftsmanship with the material,” says Tania Chau, director of interior design at ALA. Decorative details manifest in a concentric quilted seat top, as a signature seam stitch, and a protective metal cap on the stacking model. “While the pouf is great without it, these options are like jewelry or an accessory,” Chau adds, “an extra touch that the specifier can use to distinguish and customize their pieces to suit each project.”

ALDA-LY.COM; HBFTEXTILES.COM

## LG + GALLIES x GH COMMERCIAL

For Lorena Gaxiola of LG + Gallies, designing custom carpet prints for her commercial projects has always been the norm. Take the Lennox, a 47-story residential building in Sydney. Here, in collaboration with Australian manufacturer GH Commercial, the locally based Gaxiola crafted a river-inspired print that references the adjacent Parramatta River, paying homage to the iconic waterfront “as artwork on the floor,” she says. This led to her recent collaboration with GH Commercial as a means to “offer people a wide range of fashion-inspired prints to add vibrancy to dull spaces,” she says. Launching in September in Australia, and the U.S. soon after, four collections with more than 10 patterns range from Terra, which draws inspiration from the textures and patterns of the earth, to Arte (shown in the Signature pattern), a statement-making collage of colors that takes cues from Gaxiola’s personal artwork. “I have a passion for art, and I love designing with color,” she adds. “I see interiors as a form of fashion and a way to match my clients’ personalities or their brands to their developments.”

LORENAGAXIOLA.COM; GHCOMMERCIAL.COM



Photos by PIPPA DRUMMOND, BRIGITTE LACOMBE and courtesy of AB CONCEPT, LG + GALLIES, and MAYA ROMANOFF

## AB CONCEPT x GEBRÜDER THONET VIENNA

The collaboration between Gebrüder Thonet Vienna (GTV) and AB Concept started with a casual call, which led “to a serendipitous moment for both parties,” says Ed Ng, who founded the Hong Kong-based firm with Terence Ngan in 1999. Indeed, AB Concept had considered designing its own chair to use in projects, and GTV was looking for guest designers to reinterpret its classic aesthetic. “The collaboration felt like a natural progression for both of us,” Ng explains. The duo dove into the GTV archives, studying iconic pieces and craftsmanship techniques that the Austrian company had pioneered over the years. That immersive education was coupled with the pair’s own life in Karuizawa, Japan, “which sparked a new level of inspiration and awareness of how nature could create such an ever-changing scene that always seems harmonious,” Ng says. From that, the Hagu chair was born. Translating to hug in English, its slim metal frame and plywood shell wraps users like a cocoon. “It’s a great combination of elegance and practicality,” Ng adds, “celebrating the beauty of merging tradition and contemporary design.”

ABCONCEPT.NET; GEBRUEDETHONETVIENNA.COM



## DAVID ROCKWELL x MAYA ROMANOFF

Longtime collaborators David Rockwell and Maya Romanoff joined forces once again on the Porto wallcovering collection (shown here in Deco), which highlights a commitment to sustainability thanks to its use of hand-laid cork, a rapidly renewable resource. Layered with luminous metallic foil, the combination represents an unexpected marriage between an “organic and humble material with something dramatic and luxurious,” says Rockwell Group founder David Rockwell. Recently, the firm wrapped the private dining room walls at the forthcoming Metropolis restaurant by chef Marcus Samuelsson, located in the soon-to-open Perelman Performing Arts Center in New York, in the warm and inviting Lino pattern. “Our collaboration has allowed us to think more like craftspeople and not like designers or architects,” he adds. “It is important to have environments and objects that have handcrafted elements.”

ROCKWELLGROUP.COM; MAYAROMANOFF.COM

