

November/December 2012

Residential Architect

A Magazine of The American Institute of Architects

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SPF:a



All Things Considered

An architect involved in a diversity of design disciplines—architecture, product, fashion—might seem strange in this country, but such professionals are indigenous to Italy. Emanuela Frattini Magnusson, AIA, trained in this tradition and set up New York-based EFM Design & Architecture in the same vein. “That’s how I started the practice,” she says. “Italian product design came out of architecture. It’s pretty much the way all architects have been trained there.”

In addition to homes, EFM designs textiles, leather goods, electronics, furniture, hardware, stemware, lighting, jewelry, brand identity, and more. Frattini Magnusson is the founder and principal designer of Articolo, a collection of European-made furniture, and is the founder of Manù, which specializes in leather bags and accessories.

Sometimes product design work finds her through conventional projects. A job to design the Getzville, N.Y., headquarters for leather goods manufacturer Spinneybeck led to a commission designing architectural products and a host of other tasks related to its corporate identity.

So what is her dream design commission? “A car interior. I’m partial to Audi, but in general I’d like to do a car interior. That would be an interesting brief to tackle.” —N.F.M.

RA See full slideshows at residentialarchitect.com



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PRODUCTS

1. Basket Saucer, Dform Design
The 24-inch-wide fixture is made from birch wood veneers woven to create three-dimensional surface patterns. Domestically manufactured and hand-assembled in Brooklyn, N.Y., the light uses two 60-watt incandescent bulbs. It’s available in five sizes up to 52 inches and can be ordered in the light “aspen” or darker “birch” color. 718.384.6887; dformdesign.com.

2. Cadence One, Icera Group
This is a sleek gravity-fed toilet that uses only 1 gallon of water per flush. Features include a fully glazed 2¹/₈-inch trap and a glazed non-staining, antimicrobial surface that the manufacturer says

keeps the bowl cleaner. The WaterSense-certified product is available in white, bisque, and black, and also in a model that uses 1.28 gallons of water per flush. 855.444.2372; icerausa.com.

3. Segmented Cooktop, Bertazzoni
Part of the company’s “Design Series,” the cooktop allows buyers to combine fuel based on preference or availability. Options include gas burners, griddle, and electric induction cooking zones in 12-inch segments. Available in 30- and 36-inch sizes, the cooktops are factory-assembled and come as a single unit for easy installation. 866.905.0010; bertazzoni.com.