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THE ART OF  
**LIVING  
WELL**

AT HOME  
WITH RICK OWENS

Renzi, Jen. "The Fabulous Campana Boys," *WSJ Magazine*. May 2013.

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## THE FABULOUS CAMPANA BOYS

### DESIGNERS FERNANDO AND HUMBERTO

Campana have always been ahead of the curve. Since launching their furniture company in the early '80s, the São Paulo-based siblings known as the Campana Brothers have embraced sustainability, social responsibility and an obsessive approach to materials—attributes that, thanks largely to their influence, define today's high-design landscape. Although they've long enjoyed exalted status among the culturati (museum curators included), a spate of long-gestating projects now coming to fruition are giving the duo broader exposure. The Brazilian brothers just unveiled an auditorium and shop for the soon-to-be-opened Stedelijk Museum branch in Hertogenbosch, the Netherlands, and will soon complete interiors and gardens for the Iniala hotel in Phuket,



**CHAIR MEN** Brothers Humberto, left, and Fernando. Top: The brass Racket chair features a hand-stitched motif.

Thailand. "More and more, we're interested in creating whole environments," says Humberto, 60, who describes his creative relationship with his 52-year-old brother as "symbiotic."

And in June, the Campanas kick off a New York solo exhibition—their first in the U.S. in seven years—at Chelsea's Friedman Benda. "Gallery shows give us the freedom to dream and explore," says Humberto. "It's not so connected to mass production." Indeed, many of the pieces will be one-offs or limited editions (with price tags to match). Among the highlights are a cowhide-swaddled buffet that seems to sprout from the wall and ceiling-hung glass panels encrusted in amethysts. Exhibiting a wink-wink sense of humor, a sofa fashioned from stuffed alligators is quintessentially Campana.

The pair's hands-on, immersive investigation of artisanal techniques has taken them from bamboo villages in Taiwan to the Rome atelier of artisan Fabio Salini, with whom they're currently collaborating on a line of jewelry interweaving diamonds and bronze with rough-hewn raffia and straw. But increasingly, they're staying home. "São Paulo has changed completely in the last few years, with much more cosmopolitan and cultural exchange," says Humberto. Of course, even as the world catches up with the Campanas, they continue to think forward. —*Jen Renzi*

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