

DISCOVERIES



ONE TO WATCH

Iní Archibong

The designer stays ahead of the curve with his latest furniture for Sé

IT ALL STARTED with a table leg. “I was sanding the form, preparing to cast it in aluminum, and felt totally connected with my creative side,” recalls Iní Archibong of his eureka moment as a student at Pasadena’s ArtCenter College of Design. “I was outside the computer, shaping something myself.”

Now based in Switzerland, the Nigerian-American designer continues to apply his hand to sculptural creations, among them a stirrup-shaped watch for Hermès and assorted furniture collections. Three years ago, his work caught the eye of Pavlo Schtakleff, cofounder of the furniture company Sé, then on the hunt for fresh talent. “We sent him a brief, and what he sent back was exactly right,” says Schtakleff, who has been collaborating with Archibong ever since.

Their latest pieces—curvy, unconventional designs that feel both luxurious and livable—debuted during Milan’s Salone del Mobile. Blown-glass globes form striking chandeliers and floor lamps; jewel-hued velvets sheathe rotund sofas; and hewn wood appears as pebble-shaped tables and high-back seats. Says Archibong, “Everything feels more grounded, more lasting, less likely to float away.”

Unsurprisingly, he has gained plenty of admirers, like Marc Benda, who has commissioned pieces for both his gallery, Friedman Benda, and home. “I want him to go outside his comfort zone,” the dealer reflects. Archibong is game: “I’m trying not to make everything so pretty.” *designbyini.com* —HANNAH MARTIN



1. INÍ ARCHIBONG ON A PROTOTYPE OF HIS SOFA FOR SÉ (*SE-COLLECTIONS.COM*). 2. EOS TABLE FOR SÉ. 3. ATLAS CHAIR FOR SÉ.

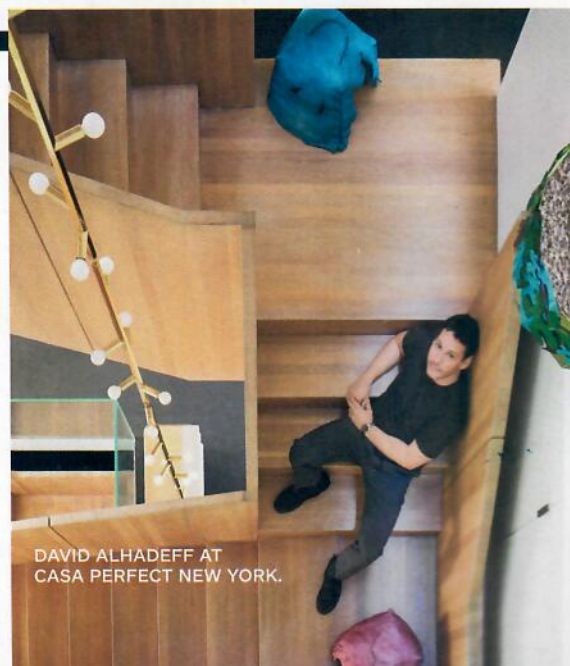


WORDS OF WISDOM

ON REINVENTING RETAIL . . .

“This house presented the opportunity to assume stewardship over a place of architectural significance. And that’s the idea behind *Casa Perfect*. It’s not a store, not a typical retail experience. It’s cultural. And it’s somebody’s home—I live here. The day that I started Casa in L.A., I knew I had to do it in Manhattan. No kidding, I have seen 100 houses, from Tribeca all the way up to the 90s. I just had to wait for that sensational feeling.”

—David Alhadeff, founder of The Future Perfect, talking about the new Casa Perfect New York (his residential retail concept in a David Chipperfield-renovated townhouse). Open by appointment; *thefutureperfect.com*



DAVID ALHADEFF AT CASA PERFECT NEW YORK.

FROM TOP: FRANCK JUERY (3); DOUGLAS FRIEDMAN

AD

Designer Ini Archibong Stays Ahead of the Curve With His Latest Furniture For Sé

His latest pieces are curvy, unconventional designs

By Hannah Martin

April 26, 2019



Ini Archibong on a prototype of his sofa for Sé (se-collections.com). Photo by Franck Juery.

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Atlas chair for Sé. Photo by Franck Juery.

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EOS table for Sé. Photo by Franck Juery.

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