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IDEAS

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HIS STYLE
ESSENTIALS

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HER 12
MUST-HAVES



DESIGN'S NEW
FRONTIERS
THE INNOVATORS RESHAPING
OUR WORLD



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CLÉMENCE and **DIDIER KRZENTOWSKI**'s Galerie Kreo is named for the Esperanto word for *creation*—these influential Parisian dealers speak a global language of design. The couple, who are married, commission limited-edition pieces from some of the world's star designers, including Martin Szekely, Marc Newson, and Maarten Van Severen.

In the 1970s, **GERARDUS WIDDERSHOVEN** of Maison Gerard introduced Andy Warhol and Karl Lagerfeld to the work of French Art Deco masters Émile-Jacques Ruhlmann and Jean Dunand. Later, his business partner **BENOIST DRUT** expanded the gallery's purview to include living designers like Hervé Van der Straeten and Ayala Serfaty. Maison Gerard—which just celebrated its 40th year in business—is the last word on connoisseurship.

There's a reason **LIZ O'BRIEN**'s clientele includes top collectors. For more than two decades, the New York gallery owner has been ahead of the curve even when looking behind her. O'Brien champions what she calls "new old names"—she was among the first to revive the work of American designers Samuel Marx, William Haines, and Karl Springer, along with Europeans Maria Pergay and Line Vautrin.

Blackman Cruz—the dark and atmospheric 9,000-square-foot Los Angeles gallery operated by **ADAM BLACKMAN** and **DAVID CRUZ**—takes eclecticism to new heights. The showroom is a treasure trove of the owners' unique finds—from lesser-known midcentury Mexican designers to sexy Italian designs for Arredoluce and marble Roman busts.

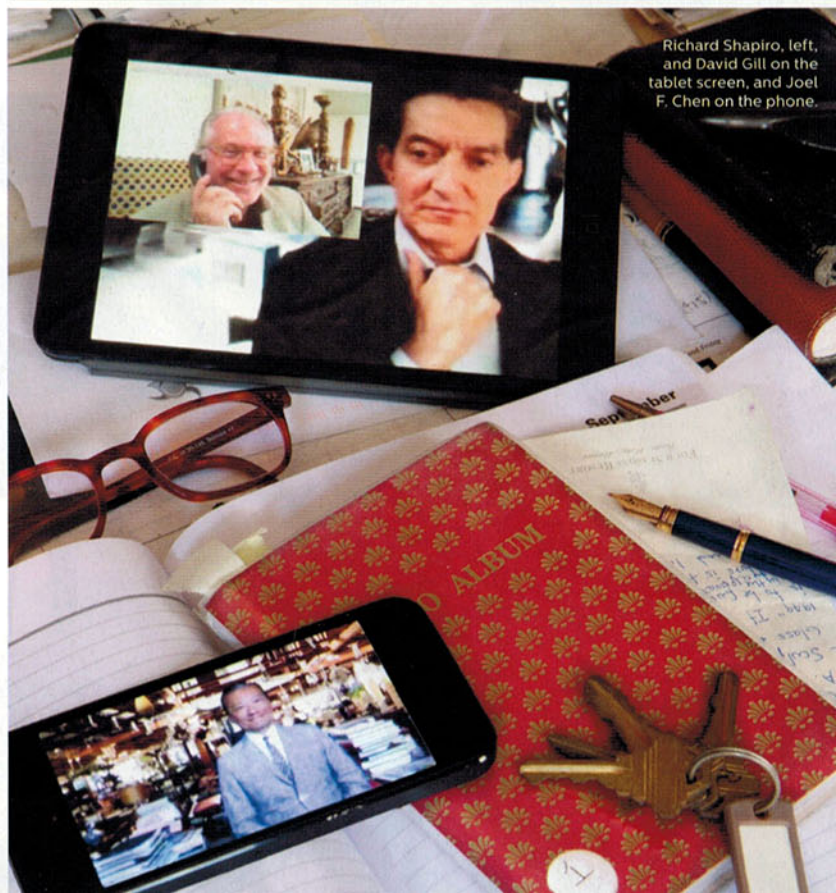
With its 18th-century marble statuary, Renaissance tables, and ethnic textiles, **RICHARD SHAPIRO**'s Los Angeles gallery is one of the West Coast's best antiques resources. If Shapiro understands the collector's passion, it's because he was one; the artist and former rental-car entrepreneur amassed art and antiques before setting out his shingle. He now also produces his own *soigné* furniture line, Studiolo.

London dealer **DAVID GILL** has helped shift perceptions that contemporary design can be labeled as art. More than just a gallery owner, he is an active collaborator who seeks out top names in design, architecture, and fashion—from Zaha Hadid to Rei Kawakubo and Mattia Bonetti—resulting in unique commissions.

In vintage furniture circles, Los Angeles dealer **JOEL F. CHEN** is nothing short of a prophet. His massive showrooms overflow with amazing finds—from rare midcentury Scandinavian furniture to Eames prototypes and Donald Judd pieces. On his radar: modern Korean ceramics and neoclassical furniture. "Antiques," he says, "are coming back."



FROM LEFT: Benoist Drut, Liz O'Brien, and Gerardus Widdershoven in Grajales's gallery, with David Cruz and Adam Blackman on the computer screen



Richard Shapiro, left, and David Gill on the tablet screen, and Joel F. Chen on the phone.