

3 NYC design and art shows to spice up your digs

By Andrew Sessa

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Caroline Grant (left) and Dolores Suarez of Dekar Design created a shoppable apartment at the Domino ShopHouse.

Photo: Tamara Beckwith/NY POST

With spring finally right around the corner, now's the time to think about renewing the look of your home for the season ahead.

Those looking for a bit of inspiration are in luck, as a trio of art and design events will arrive in town in the coming weeks, bringing with them a bevy of ways — at all price points — to feather your nest with something new.

And, since each features vendors, decorators and galleries based here in town, you can take advantage of their offerings long after the events have ended.

Architectural Digest Home Design Show



Eclectic offerings from the 400-plus vendors at the AD Home Design Show at Piers 92 & 94.

Photo: SocialShutterbug.com

Organized by the Conde Nast design bible, the 14th-annual [Architectural Digest Home Design Show](#) opens today at West 55th Street's Pier 92 and Pier 94 and runs through March 22.

The event gathers 400-plus vendors and thousands upon thousands of enticing products, from finishings, fixtures and furnishings to appliances, accessories and art.

"I'm excited about the huge range of design talents who will be exhibiting at the show — last year I met several new companies that we now feature regularly in *Architectural Digest*," says AD editor in chief Margaret Russell, who tonight will lead a social media-focused discussion with designers Alessandra Branca and Alex Papachristidis. "There's an extraordinary mix of established brands, from all the major kitchen firms to craft-focused innovators," Russell continues. "You might discover a marvelous artist, or find the perfect sink fittings for your kitchen or bath."



Tucker Robbins' Votive Petal pendant, \$3,930, at the AD Home Design Show, which starts today.

Photo: Tucker Robbins Inc.



One New York-based, craft-focused exhibitor is longtime participant [Tucker Robbins](#), whose eponymous studio designs and produces pieces that celebrate natural materials and ancient artisanal methods even as they take modern and contemporary forms.

At this year's show, he's presenting three new works: the Heartwood Tripod Dining Table, which combines a barely treated slab of wood with a sleek steel base; the faceted, beautifully grained Geodesic Side Table; and the Votive Petal pendant lamp, similar to the woven-basket lighting he first debuted at Nobu Next Door.

Two NYC vendors new to the show, meanwhile, are [LAFCO](#), which will premier an all-natural body-care line from its House & Home Collection, available in 12 different fragrances; and Brooklyn's [Bellocq Tea](#)

Atelier, which will use the event to launch a range of six scented candles.

The wanderlust-inspiring fragrances include Majorelle Mint (freshly torn mint, gunpowder green tea, Moroccan cedar) and the Queen's Guard (English heirloom roses, lavender, rose geranium and Ceylon tea), and they come in three different handcrafted brass vessels.

Affordable Art Fair New York

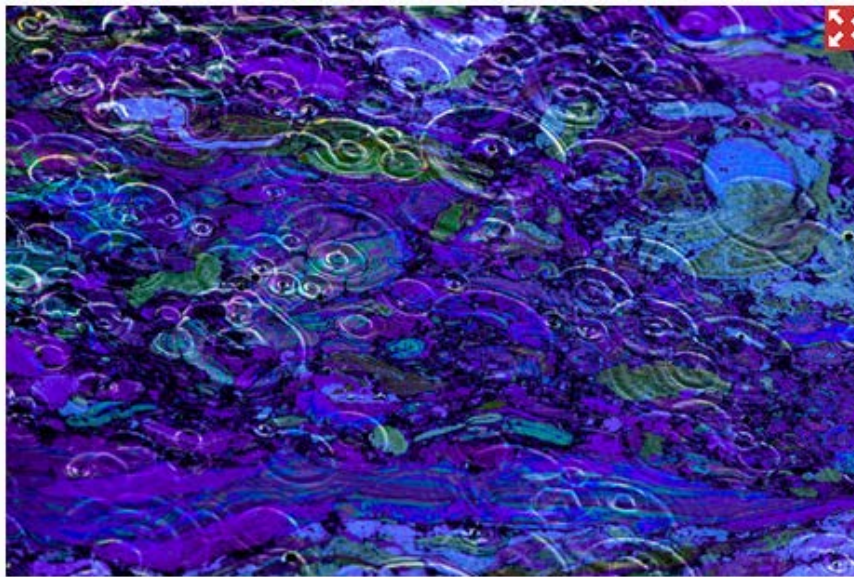


"Coney Island, 2014," by Laura Okita, \$900, at Lilac Gallery for AAF NY.

Photo: Lilac Gallery Ltd.

The [Affordable Art Fair](#) returns to Chelsea's Metropolitan Pavilion from March 25-29. More than 70 international galleries will offer pieces from the downright cheap (\$100) to the relatively splurge-worthy (\$10,000), with half going for under \$5,000 — only a touch more than the average price of three square feet of New York residential real estate.

"Photography continues to be popular at our fair," says its director, Cristina Salmastrelli, "but I'm seeing more New Yorkers interested in oil paintings." She also notes a comeback for works on paper, which make "a wonderful way to start a collection." Salmastrelli encourages attendees to use the fair's free personal shopping services to navigate the galleries, 25 of which come from the metropolitan area.



"Electra, 2014," by Steven Hirsch, at Lilac Gallery at Affordable Art Fair.

Photo: Lilac Gallery Ltd.

Among NYC dealers making their fair debut, [Lilac Gallery](#) will show diverse highlights from the nine exhibitions it's mounted since opening in May, plus previews of what's coming soon; and [MZ Urban Art](#)'s impressively international array will include works by French painter Sebastián Aurillon, Brazilian multimedia artist Claudia Furlani and manga-influenced Japanese painter Mari Yamagiwa.

Top NYC returnees, meanwhile, are the Spanish contemporary art-focused [Art Angler](#), presenting childlike, abstract paintings by Xavi Carbonell; neon-hued Picasso-esque Pop-Cubist work by painter Jose Palacios; and Carlos Albert's forged-steel sculptures.

Another longtime exhibitor, [Emmanuel Fremin Gallery](#), will show work by artists new to the gallery, including Nathan Vincent's crocheted-soldier sculptures and, for those seeking an artist with Pop Cultural cachet, serene photography by Beatles scion Julian Lennon.



Carlos Albert's "Triton," \$3,500, at Art Angler at AAFNY.
Photo: ART ANGLER

Domino ShopHouse



Domino's spring 2015 cover featuring the Dekar Design duo.
Photo: Handout

Just as it reinvented the staid shelter magazine as a dynamic, highly shoppable magalog, [Domino](#) — which re-launched 18 months back — has now reimaged the traditional show house.

Its first-ever ShopHouse arrives on April 2, open by appointment through September (email shophouse@elliman.com to schedule a viewing).

For the project, occupying a quartet of apartments in the Financial District's 15 William condominium, Domino editor-in-chief Robert Leleux chose four rising New York interiors stars and matched them with a favorite accessibly priced home brand. Each company gave the designers free run of their inventory, as has Manhattan contemporary-art gallery [Voltz Clarke](#).

"The whole idea of Domino is to combine the old and the new in a fresh and sparkling manner, to pay homage to traditional design in an unforeseen form," says Leleux. "That's what we wanted to do here." In creating the pairings, Leleux didn't go for the obvious but wanted to introduce an element of surprise.

"I treated it like a dinner party, putting people together who are fundamentally compatible but different enough to have scintillating conversation." Visitors will find, for example, what he calls the "hip, quirky, idiosyncratic downtown" decorating sensibility of [Dekar Design](#) with the more traditional, uptown pieces of [Ballard Designs](#).

Dekar partners Caroline Grant and Dolores Suarez — who have masterminded such homey NYC restaurants as Claudette and Rosemary's, and are on the cover of Domino's spring issue — created a two-bedroom apartment for a young family that feels eclectic, textured and modern.



Rizzo Chair, \$720, by Homeware at the Domino ShopHouse.

Photo: Homeware Furniture & Décor

The other apartments see [Antonino Buzzetta](#) adding sexy, mid-century flair to [Homeware's](#) furniture; [Jenny J. Norris](#) bringing a feminine touch to [Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams](#); and Jennifer Hunter and Georgie Hambright of [J+G Design](#) lending girl-about-town style to [Thomasville](#).