

MIRANDA  
JULY

INDIE LIGHTNING ROD

RUDY & JUDI

THE POLITICAL AUDITION OF JUDITH GIULIANI, BY LLOYD GROVE

SPEED-DATING  
MICHAEL  
JACKSON

MY NIGHTS WITH  
PHIL  
SPECTOR  
BY KURT ANDERSEN

MAY 21, 2007

# NEW YORK



## Home Design

SPRING 2007

# THE NEXT NEXT THINGS

The next color, chrome, tub, sofa, revival, tile, Martha Stewart, appliance, leather, doorknob...

PLUS

First look inside Jean Nouvel's masterpiece. The 'Domino' editor's own apartment. Philip Johnson's personal museum.

By DAVID COLMAN



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# The *Next* Garde

*Whether their field is furniture, flowers, architecture, or art, these eleven people are building the edge, even as we speak.*

Photograph by MARK HEITHOFF

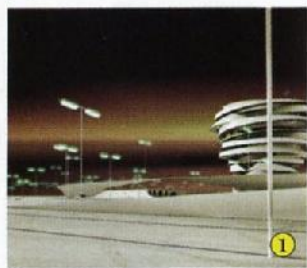
STANDING, FROM LEFT, Jean-Paul Violet, Pepe López, Kyra Hartnett, Galia Solomonoff, Sara Story, Adrienne LaBelle, Rob Wynne, and Gal Nauer. On floor, from left, Benjamin Aranda, Amy Lau, and Billy Cotton.





## 1. ARANDA/LASCH

Who knows what time will do to Benjamin Aranda's recent statement that he and his partner Chris Lasch "learned to be the architects we are from a bird-keeper in Brooklyn, a basket weaver in Arizona, and a big billboard in Queens." Whatever it means exactly, it certainly sums up Aranda/Lasch's thinking, which won them a Young Architects Award this year from New York's Architectural League. Aranda/Lasch's mostly conceptual CV includes film and video work, a sold-out manifesto (titled *Tooling*), and a winning prize in a competition for which they dreamed up a mammoth drive-through version of Las Vegas. 917-534-9767



## 2. ATELIER VIOLET

Woodworkers are just as prey to trends as fashion designers—witness the disparate craft

traditions of Arts & Crafts, Danish modernism, and minimalism, to name but three. What's remarkable about Jean-Paul Viollet, the French-born-and-taught furniture maker, is that he creates pieces that dovetail numerous design aesthetics and yet he maintains a sense of individuality. Hinting at French Deco masters like Andre Sornay and Jean-Michel Frank as well as the laser-precise shapes of contemporary design, the chairs and tables of Atelier Viollet are impeccably, ingeniously joined—testament to the generations of Viollets who have been woodworking since the early-nineteenth century. 718-782-1727

## 3. CUSTOM RESOURCE

Usually, when people talk about marrying contemporary and traditional design, they don't mean it as literally as do the founders of Brooklyn's Custom Resource, Billy Cotton and Isaac Lubow. The two men, who studied industrial design at Pratt, will take, say, a battered antique table and coat it with enough conversion lacquer to produce what looks like a just-off-the-assembly-line modernist gem. The men, who also do custom-fabrication work for other designers, are becoming known for their puckish elegance—



evidenced by the vintage sofas they've re-created by covering the upholstery with crackly upholstery paint, or their milk-carton vase made of a crumpled carton cast in porcelain. 718-858-2263

## 4. ADRIENNE LABELLE

If this young Brooklyn-based designer doesn't make it in design (a highly doubtful turn of events), she could easily turn to film, so clever, spirited, and spare are her interiors. With a whimsical but sophisticated use of color, Adrienne LaBelle celebrates a healthy sense of kitsch that most decorators do their best to repress. She went to the Rhode Island School of Design and worked with prominent designer DD Allen, but LaBelle's formative design experience was decorating a dollhouse when she was a teenager. That early project still comes through in her

interiors, where solid, sensible grown-up design, whether modern or traditional, gets just the right shot of adolescent fun. [adriennelabelle.com](http://adriennelabelle.com)

## 5. AMY LAU

Scaling the long stairs to the top of a designer showhouse can feel like a trek up a mountain whose views only get worse. But a welcome surprise awaited those who made it to the top floor of this year's Kips Bay Decorator Show House—a turquoise and lime-green party room by Lau. One of the founders of Design Miami, which runs concurrent with Miami's monster Art Basel fair, Lau mixes a serious connoisseurship of modernist furnishings with a love of the offbeat, eccentric, and just plain kitsch. She's also a big proponent of desegregating art and décor. For Lau, décor is like a cocktail party. You want the right people; on the other hand, the more, the merrier. 212-645-6168

## 6. PEPE LÓPEZ

Many of the established uptown decorating firms are racing downtown claiming a long-buried love of modernism, but one man is making the reverse commute. Brown- and Columbia-educated López oversaw Alan Wanzenberg's thriving decoration business. Now on his own, the low-key López is