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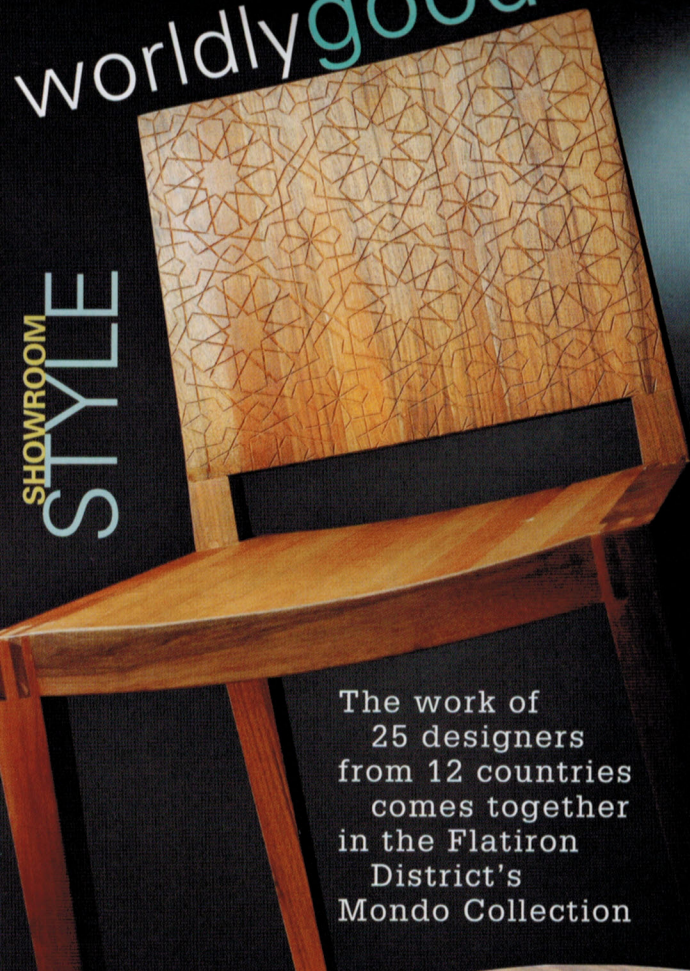
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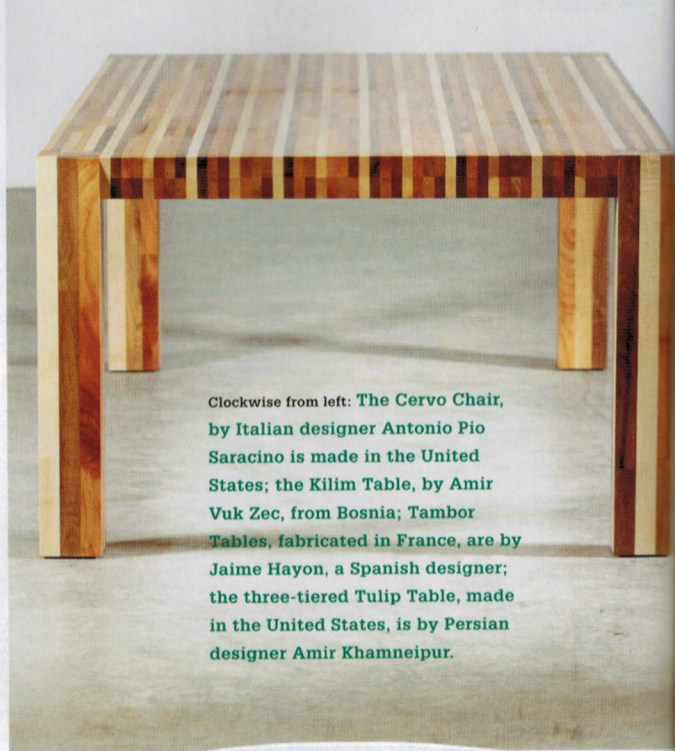
The work of 25 designers from 12 countries comes together in the Flatiron District's Mondo Collection



Left: Mondo Collection principals Hany Boutros (left) and Mario Elcid (right), in their 2,000-square-foot showroom on West 22nd Street. The Beetley Armchair, made in France, is by Spanish designer Jaime Hayon. Clockwise from top left: Quiet Chair, by Jasna Mujkic, from Bosnia; U.S.-made ceramic jacks by Kaiser Suidan, a Lebanese American designer; the Daisy Collection, by Salih Teskeredzic, of Bosnia.



"I HAVE A SIMPLE TEST FOR ANY NEW PIECES THAT WE BRING INTO THE MONDO Collection," says Mario Elcid, who launched the hip, Flatiron District home furnishings business with partner Hany Boutros this year. "I always ask myself, 'Is it new and fresh?' and 'Will I still want to live with it two years from now?'" The most interesting home furnishings, says Elcid, are neither knockoffs of some earlier generation's dusty idea nor so trend-conscious that they become clichéd and disposable in



Clockwise from left: The Cervo Chair, by Italian designer Antonio Pio Saracino is made in the United States; the Kilim Table, by Amir Vuk Zec, from Bosnia; Tambor Tables, fabricated in France, are by Jaime Hayon, a Spanish designer; the three-tiered Tulip Table, made in the United States, is by Persian designer Amir Khamneipur.



a matter of months. Unlike haute couture, quality furniture, lighting, rugs, and home accessories are investments that require a long-term vision.

An architectural engineer by training, a modernist by nature, and a world traveler by choice, Elcid explores the globe with Boutros, a friend for 11 years, in search of pieces to bring home to their New York gallery.

Like a lot of successful creative and business enterprises, the idea for Mondo Collection developed from a personal need. "I had a new apartment in New York and was shopping for myself, but everything I found was either out of my price range or 'more of the same'," Elcid explains. "But when I would travel to Europe and the Middle East—Italy or Lebanon or London or Portugal—I would discover new designers who were respected in their countries but unknown here. There were things I loved and wanted to live with." Problem was, it wasn't practical to get a container and arrange shipping for just a few items. Knowing others must feel the way he did, Elcid teamed with Boutros to shop the world with more than themselves in mind. "You should be able to get the best of everything in the world right here in New York," says Elcid. "We are helping to make that happen." ~ See Resources.

quality (not nationality)

The Mondo Mission: "We think that design is universal. Nationalities do not come into consideration in our choices. We are working with designers from all parts of the world—Singapore, Spain, Italy, Iran, Bosnia, Nepal, Argentina, Egypt, Canada, United Kingdom, Switzerland, Belgium, United States, and more. Our designers range in age from 24 to 82."