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Showroom: South American Inspiration for Jiun Ho's New Collection

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For his new furniture collection, Jiun Ho looked to the landscapes and architecture of South America. Image courtesy Jiun Ho.

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Seven years ago, designer [Jiun Ho](#) made his first trip to South America. Since, then he has made several visits, extensively photographing the stunning landscapes and structures he returns to time and again—the Atacama Desert in Chile, the salt flats of Bolivia, the ruins of Peru’s Machu Picchu.

Captivated by the continent, Ho has distilled elements from its land and architecture into his most recent furniture collection. Among the 13 pieces, which include sofas, cocktail tables, benches and dining tables, there is a nesting coffee table with an organic, octagonal form inspired by Bolivia’s Salar de Uyuni, the world’s largest salt flat. The slope of the Colima sofa, he says, “derives from the shape of the Andes.” It’s a sculptural piece meant to be appreciated from all sides and features sophisticated top-stitched details.

Covering the furniture are textiles from the Prima Alpaca collection from [Sandra Jordan](#), an old friend, who hails from Peru herself. “We couldn’t do it without Sandra,” says Ho. “She was the first person I approached.” The luxe yet sturdy fabric (it doesn’t pill or deform) covers the upholstered pieces and is offered in six different colors that echo the colors found in the landscapes that inspired them.

While the shapes of the current collection represent a departure of sorts for Ho (“I designed things a little more organically,” he notes), they share with his earlier collections an emphasis on shape and form, along with, he explains, “modern details, the stitching, the fabric and woodwork that are part of my basic philosophy—the common thread through the collections and my design work.”

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