

cultural evolution

Deep inside every fashion designer a furniture aficionado lurks, waiting to be unleashed. Just ask Vivienne Tam, the latest apparel idol to transport catwalk glamour to living rooms. Her namesake collection for Rowe Furniture taps into motifs from her Cantonese youth: chow legs on the Laurel ottoman, nods

to Chinese Chippendale in the carved arms of the Camellia sofa. Many of the 45 fabrics that appear on the 15 seating designs, including three floor pillows, were adapted from her women 's wearthe most arresting being the Chairman Mao polyester, a 1995 print that makes an ideal complement to the brushed-steel pedestal base of her Peony swivel chair. 703-847-8670; rowefurni-

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FAR FAST

in the balance

When design-center darlings tackle the retail market, too often their bespoke vocabulary is lost in translation. But Jiun Ho didn't tame his signature line's celebrated exoticism for his debut at Boller & Company, the residential offshoot of contract-hospitality player Decca. He merely democratized. "I took into account the realities of today's urban living environments, with deliberately scaled-back dimensions to make an easy fit," he says. Tables, seating, and case goods compose his 20-piece Kinkou series, an allusion to the Japanese word for balance. (Interpret that as the give-and-take between yesterday and today or the tension of curves meeting edges.) The powder-coated

KINKOU

anodized-aluminum Far East occasional table can stand alone or stack in multiples, spontaneously, to create a console. He used anodized aluminum again for the legs of the Kinkou bench, its seat lacquered an attentiongrabbing red. 336-887-2815; bolierco.com. circle 404



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