

OPPOSITE: HO IS PROUD TO SAY THAT HE HAS VISITED OVER 100 COUNTRIES—AND FOUND IDEAS IN MOST OF THEM.

BELOW AND BOTTOM: HO WAS INSPIRED BY PAINTINGS BY DUTCH ARTIST **PIET MONDRIAN**, SUCH AS THE 1935 *COMPOSITION B (NO. II)* WITH *RED (NO. III)*, AND ANCIENT INCAN RUINS FOR THE PISAC CONSOL.

the modern, a continuing motif in Ho's work. Ho got the travel bug from his parents, who frequently brought him on their trips from their native Malaysia throughout Asia. His mother told him, "You can be poor in life, but you want to be rich in experience." He says that if he hadn't become a designer, he would have been a pilot—so that he could see the world. To date, he has had no flying lessons, probably because he has been too busy managing his interior design business, his furniture company, and his shop, Jiun Ho De Jia, in San Francisco, a gallery where he sells a collection of his personally curated art and antiques. Right after graduating from the International Academy of Merchandising & Design, in Chicago, he went to work for a large corporate design office that was based in San Francisco. Because he wanted to stay in the United States, the best option open to him was to start his own interiors business. Ho had no intention of becoming a product designer, but his very first client told him that she wanted pieces of furniture that none of her friends had. While he had never designed so much as a single table, to please her he started making watercolor sketches. She liked everything he showed her. He's been designing furniture ever since. —A.H.

