



LEFT: AT 3x10, THE ARCHITECTS USED ORIGINAL BEAMS IN THEIR BELLTOWN SPACE AS DISPLAY SHELVES. THEY WANTED TO KEEP THE INTERIOR LINES CLEAN TO IMITATE THE SIMPLICITY OF THEIR DESIGNS AND TO ALLOW THE FOCUS TO STAY ON THE OBJECTS RATHER THAN THEIR SURROUNDINGS.

BELOW: THE ARCHITECTURAL FORCES BEHIND 3x10 ARE GEORGE SUYAMA, RIC PETERSON AND JAY DEGUCHI.



PHOTOGRAPHS THIS PAGE: HANK DREW

Seattle-area architects translate their talents into finely crafted furniture worthy of their stellar reputations

ARCHITECTURALLY INSPIRED

WRITTEN BY ALLISON LIND

IN THE HANDS OF CERTAIN ARCHITECTS, a home is not simply a structure; it's a livable piece of art. In many cases, these architects and their clients want that artwork to include the furnishings—so they design those too.

It's not necessarily a new practice. Architectural icon Frank Lloyd Wright is perhaps one of the most well-known architects to translate his talents with buildings into furniture design. Many of his designs have recently been reissued as a new line by Copeland, available at McKinnon Furniture (206-622-6474; mckinnonfurniture.com).

Even modernism has classic roots in architect-designed furniture.

Arne Jacobsen and Le Corbusier created popular pieces as far back as the 1950s and 1920s, respectively, that are still highly popular today.

Seattle architects have been making a name for themselves in the furniture realm as well. In 1952, Wendell Lovett created his now-famed Bikini Chair (see page 38), still in production, and carried at Chartreuse.

Acclaimed for both art and architecture, Roy McMakin began designing furniture in 1986, and today his workshop, Domestic Furniture Co., produces classic favorites and new designs as well as private commissions, even while Domestic Architecture Co. continues to build and design homes.

Some architect/furniture designers seek further control and custom-

ization for their clients and extend their passion for design into an extra service. Cutler Anderson Architects, for example, has been custom designing furniture for their projects since the 1970s.

Others have created furniture lines available to all. We talked with several Seattle architects whose distinct styles have made names for themselves in both the architecture and furniture-design worlds.

GEORGE SUYAMA, RIC PETERSON AND JAY DEGUCHI FOR 3x10

The unique Belltown furniture store 3x10 is an example of what happens when three talented architects with a love for well-crafted furnishings collide.

Created by the principals of Suyama Peterson Deguchi, 3x10 showcases the team's custom-designed furniture, lighting and fixtures, most of which come from the talented minds of architects George Suyama, Jay Deguchi and Ric Peterson.

"We decided it'd be nice to create a store that offsets all the mass-produced things that were being done by places like Pottery Barn and Crate and Barrel, to provide something for people who might not normally get to work with an architect or afford to have something designed for them; we wanted to provide something in between," Deguchi says.

The store opened in 2002, but it's hardly considered a business by the architects. "It's more our experimental studio," Suyama says. "We have the luxury of designing something once, which can be re-created if the demand arises. It's almost like an artist's studio, but we're architects."

Many of the designs fashioned by this team are works of art, though functional art. From chairs to floor lamps to nutcrackers, 3x10's designs are an imaginative celebration of natural materials and their inherent qualities.

"We celebrate character and imperfection rather than try to hide it," Deguchi says. "We don't want the piece to be too serious, to lose that personality that makes it interesting."

The minimalism that embodies 3x10's furnishings—"It's that fine line between nothing and just enough," Suyama says—is the same that's earned them such acclaim for their architecture, which is why adding furniture was such a natural transition.

"The intimate things enforce the overall scale of the house," Deguchi says. "A truly well-designed space needs that level of detail. That's why as a practice we've grown into doing a bit of everything."

3x10, 2324 Second Ave.; (206) 256-0809 or suyamapetersondeguchi.com.



LAMP: HANK DREW; FIRE TOOL SET AND CHAIR: COURTESY 3x10



Pieces designed by Suyama Peterson Deguchi architects include this Stanchion floor lamp (\$95), fire tool set (\$1,500) and bent steel chair (\$700).

