

ACTION



SHOP: FURNITURE

B&B Italia in Tokyo

The latest luxury brand to make its mark in Tokyo is B&B Italia, opening a stunning flagship store in the city's posh AOYAMA area. Designed by Japanese architect Masamichi Katayama, founder of the world-renowned design firm Wonderwall, the showroom is a sophisticated blend of local influence and the brand's long-established Italian design heritage. The subtle charcoal gray and beige stone façade feels in situ within its new neighborhood, but stands in contrast to the warm materials and bright lighting of the interiors. To complement these museum-like surroundings, each product is highlighted in the space as an attractive work of art. The store, which has already sent Tokyo's design community into a frenzy, will stock the latest B&B Italia lines, including the recently released first collection of home accessories by top-notch designers Naoto Fukasawa, Johanna Grawunder, and Marcel Wanders, among others. Just wait until they learn about the delivery time on Italian furniture.

—SCOTT MITCHEM

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FURNITURE: DESIGNER

Jason Lamberth Q&A

Furniture designer Jason Lamberth is setting the standard for organic luxury with a new line for the high-end spa Exhale (selection, below), a showroom in the Hamptons, and his latest collection inspired by an ocean liner. Liza Monroy caught up with the globe-trotting craftsman to talk teak.

What was the thinking behind your new line for Exhale?

My work reflects a sense of integrity, wisdom, and beauty. Exhale was founded on the same ideals.... Each spa has its own calming, introspective presence, and more and more people want this in their home.

How did the Empress of Britain inspire a full collection?

My parents were moving out of my childhood home and I was rummaging through the attic and found some old Deco books that made me think of old world travel and how the world has changed. The Empress of Britain was the most luxurious liner of its day. Today, it is not about how you get there, but being at a place. I got inspired about making the trip just as important and elegant as the destination. I try to do that in life too.

What themes tend to recur in your work?

All my influences have calm and longevity in common. Teak will be around a lot longer than any of us. It is very durable. My work gains beauty with age and is intended to be used and handled in everyday life.

Any personal favorite?

I suppose my signature piece is the Mia Lounge and it happens to be my favorite. My daughter, Mia, came up with the concept. We were in Bali and I asked her, then 6, what she thought a cool lounge would be. She cupped her hand and said it would be cool if you could feel like you were being held. The lines are pure, simple, and effortless.

Go to www.jasonlamberth.com and www.exhalespa.com. For complete interview, check out www.city-magazine.com.

