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EMMANUELLE CHRIQUI

EMINENT DOMAIN Spotlight



Total Immersion

NASIR KASSAMALI'S DESIGN DISTRICT SPACE **LUMINAIRE** IS A HUB FOR MODERNIST CREATIONS AND INNOVATIVE IDEAS. BY JEAN NAYAR

"From the age of 16, I dreamt of having something like a church, where people would come to experience good design," attests design impresario Nasir Kassamali. Since founding Luminaire, a multifaceted showroom/gallery/event space/ design lab enterprise in Coral Gables and later the Design District, Kassamali and his wife, Nargis, have been making that dream a living reality. Luminaire has become a celebrated fixture in the city's design scene, offering not only some of the most superlative modern furniture and accessories in the world by masters like Arne Jacobsen, Antonio Citterio, and Patricia Urquiola, but also an array of lecture series, exhibitions, and events that establish it as a nexus of ideas and inspiration in Miami and beyond. Miami Design District, 3901 NE Second Ave., 866-579-1941; luminaire.com

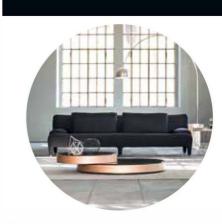


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MODERN GLAM

After fielding numerous requests for their Windfall chandeliers from customers in Miami, who'd seen the fixtures at Harry Winston in Bal Harbour Shops. Meredith and Yuri Xavier, founders of The Ligné Group, opened their Ligné Atelier showroom in Wynwood this spring. At the showroom, clients such as Roberto Cavalli and Cartier as well as design-loving Miami residents can readily access the Xaviers' glamorous modern furnishings and accessories, which include exclusive imports and the Louis Kazan collection designed by Graça Kazan and Luiz Mario Moura. 180 NW 27th St., Miami, 305-851-1994; ligneatelier.com

profile



SITTING PRETTY

Venezuelan-born Maria Elena Uzcátegui opened Uzca, her home furnishings and concept store in the Design District, as a way to gather her unique "global treasures" under one roof for the public. Among the wares are jewelry, art, accessories, lighting, and furnishings, often with a retro twist. 4790 NE Second Ave., Miami, 305-571-8200; uzca.com



AMERICAN BEAUTY

Mitchell Gold and Bob Williams recently celebrated the grand opening of their flagship store in the Design District. Chosen as part of the redecoration of the Obama White House, their classic modern upholstered furnishings include tables, storage pieces, lighting, rugs, linens, and artwork. 3800 N. Miami Ave., Miami, 786-609-9920; mgbwhome,com



ITALIAN ACCENT

Established in more than 50 countries, Italian furniture brand Visionnaire opened its first American showroom in Midtown Miami this year. Known for its work with luxury yacht and hospitality projects, the high-end lifestyle manufacturer offers more than 3,000 products developed by siblings Leopold and Eleonore Cavalli, whose grandfather founded the company with his brother in 1959. For the opening, Visionnaire presented a collection inspired by "dandyism," including pieces set off with metallic-hued jacquard wallpaper. 2063 Biscayne Blvd., Miami, 786-577-4370; visionnairemiami.com **OD**