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STYLE

effortless ELEGANCE

TOP DESIGNERS
REDEFINE GLAMOUR



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SPRING'S MOST
SEDUCTIVE COLORS

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HEADS UP!

Barcelona-based artist Jaume Plensa, best known for his interactive fountain in Chicago's Millennium Park, has massive site-specific sculptures that give voice to the human spirit. This month, *Echo*, his 44-foot-tall sculpture of a young girl, inset, comes to New York's Madison Square Park. Meanwhile, an exhibition of his work, *House of Knowledge*, right, at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park in England, runs through September (jaumeplensa.com).

YOUNG TURKS

Each spring, the MoMA Design Store in New York selects an international hub as the focus of its *Destination* series, showcasing cutting-edge products from such creative centers as Portugal, Berlin, and, this year, Istanbul. With more than 100 gifts for the home—including sensuously curved glassware, utensils made from olive-tree branches, and a sleek stack of melamine dishes—the collection evokes the stylish history of this East-meets-West metropolis. A standout is Turkish designer Demir Obuz's Twig stool, right, fashioned from beech. It's a fanciful but practical marriage of seat and coatrack (momastore.org).

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WHAT WE LOVE

Two enterprising women—Beirut-born entrepreneur Carole Marshi and New York decorator Alison Levasseur—have teamed up to found CALM, a line of summery caftans handmade in Lebanon. These diaphanous cotton dresses, intricately trimmed with beads and printed in bold solid hues and graphic botanical patterns, are more than just pretty frocks. Their careful construction is a means of financial support for the Lebanese women, including widows, who make them (calmnyc.com).



For a true Frenchwoman's home, *Parisian Chic* is a winsome handbook to the City of Light. Former *Elle* fashion icon Inès de la Fressange is the consummate guide, sharing her favorite cafés, shops, and secret addresses.

FAMILY HISTORY

FOUR TRENDSETTING SONS AND DAUGHTERS DISH ABOUT THE FAVORITE OBJECTS PASSED DOWN BY THEIR MOTHERS

- Designer **JAN SHOWERS** owes her well-dressed tables to her mother, Margaret Anne. "She had wonderful crystal and china," says Showers, who inherited much of it, along with her grandmother's Singapore Bird dishes, right. "They're great for everyday meals and dinner parties." • "My mother uses huge monogrammed French napkins—perfect for buffets when people must eat on their laps!" says **KATE BRODSKY**, an ELLE DECOR special projects editor and daughter of decorator Suzanne Rheinstejn. "She gave me some when I moved into my first apartment, and I've been collecting them since." • Designer **THOM FILICIA** treasures a pair of German silver peacocks that originally belonged to his mother, Janet. "She felt they brought a smart elegance to a room. I couldn't agree more." • Publishing executive (and New Orleans native) **DESIREE ROGERS** always has a Calphalon stockpot, left, on hand, thanks to her culinary-minded mother, Joyce. "A large pot is a must for boiling seafood or making gumbo."

