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## MAKERS' MARKS

Just when we think the pool of furniture makers and designers in Chicago couldn't expand any further, we discover more talent in our midst. These three designers, who work with everything from metal to wood to plastic, are about to make their mark with designs that stand out from the rest.

**Dreeben Michael Dreeben**

**BACK STORY:** Dreeben got an MFA in sculpture at the University of Chicago, apprenticed with a Chicago cabinetmaker, and was later awarded a Fulbright scholarship to study traditional woodworking in India. He has sold pieces to Crate & Barrel and Room & Board.

**FASCINATED BY:** "The chair—it has such rigid parameters; it has to be a certain height and hit your back at a certain place," he says.

**INSPIRATION:** Hans J. Wegner and the Shakers. **HIS WORK:** Everything from walnut and teak tables to cherry cabinets and milled aluminum chairs with plastic or leather seats.

Available at [dreeben.com](http://dreeben.com). —LAURA CASTELLANO

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**Hale Jonathan Nesci**

**BACK STORY:** Nesci is a self-taught furniture designer with certification in 3-D drafting. His technical skills help him build bold-colored, industrial-looking metal pieces, like the angular Jack stool, which has garnered national media buzz (he also created a pink stool in honor of National Breast Cancer Awareness Month). **HIS FIRST PROJECT:** A 30-foot BMX bike ramp when he was a teenager. **DAY JOB:** Managing restorations at Wright auction house.

**WHAT HE'S WORKING ON NOW:** A line of metal coffee and dining tables. Available at [Orange Skin](http://OrangeSkin.com), 223 W. Erie St., 312-335-1033; [hale-furn.com](http://hale-furn.com). —L. C.

**Lagomorph Seth Deysach**

**BACK STORY:** Deysach has a BFA in ceramic and metal sculpture from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and worked as a cook and bicycle mechanic before becoming a furniture designer and builder six years ago.

**INSPIRATIONS:** Mid-century masters George Nakashima and Sam Maloof. **MISSION:** Designing furniture to be as eco-friendly as possible (given the resources available and people's willingness to pay for it). "If a client is paying \$4,000 for a vanity, do they really want to pay twice that for sustainable materials?" he asks. **ON THE FRONT BURNER:** A collaboration with Chicago-based Covers Unlimited on a line of green furniture made from FSC-certified wood and steel frames and upholstered with vegetable-tanned leathers and bamboo chenille. "No slipcovered sofas with pleated skirts," promises Deysach. Available at [lagomorphdesign.com](http://lagomorphdesign.com). —LISA BERTAGNOLI



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