

MODERN LUXURY

# Interiors

CHICAGO

## BEST OF DESIGN 2018

CHICAGO'S TOP TALENTS  
HAVING A MOMENT NOW

**PLUS**

VIRGIL ABLOH'S NEXT BIG GIG  
UP CLOSE WITH PIET BOON  
HOT TRENDS FROM ITALY'S SHOWS





# THE IT LIST

From lighting to furniture to ice-cast bronze to blown glass and more, meet the makers who are having a moment and shaping Chicago's design scene for the better.

By Andrea Mills and Jessie Sardina

## fferrone

Born and raised in River Forest, **Felicia Ferrone** was originally an architect who lived in New York, Miami, L.A. and Milan—where she worked with icons such as Antonio Citterio and Piero Lissoni—before coming back to Chicago eight years ago to start a new life. "It all began because of my Revolution Collection of glassware," says Ferrone, of the series which is now synonymous with her name and brand. "I was frustrated with licensing my designs to other companies and felt that I could design, produce and distribute my work better than someone else," she explains. She now has collections of lighting, furniture and accessories—some of which are available in Chicago at Boffi, Luminaire and Gild Assembly—under the umbrella of an ever-expanding lifestyle brand. "I have chosen a path where I am not dependent on client commissions," says Ferrone, which brings a great sense of "joy, responsibility and privilege [because I am] designing self-initiated work." Up next is a new collection of glassware and accessories that will debut at Maison&Objet Paris, as well as new furniture through her site on 1stdibs. "My hope is that people really 'live' with my designs," she says, and "that they become part of their everyday life and bring them joy every time they use them. That is what drives me." [fferronedesign.com](http://fferronedesign.com)

1 Felicia Ferrone explores materials through composition, creating sculptural pieces that are as functional as they are beautiful.

## Lake + Wells

**Mark Kinsley** considers himself lucky that he always knew what he wanted to be. "My father is a tool- and die-maker, and I always loved visiting his shop to see the large metal industrial machines he was building," says Kinsley. "I may not have known my focus would be furniture and lighting, but I knew without a doubt that I would be making things." The engineer was working as a lighting designer at Holly Hunt when he met **Tamera Leigh Staten**, a creative writer who was temporarily restoring antique light fixtures. "I fell in love with the rich history of the pieces and the romantic process of restoring piles of metal and mismatched crystal into something glorious," she says. On one of their early dates while sitting at dinner, Staten sketched out an idea she had for a modern light fixture to get Kinsley's opinion on whether it was possible or not. It became their first collaboration, the Oona lamp, and the start of their custom lighting studio, Lake + Wells. The now husband-and-wife duo prefer a one-on-one approach with clients, working directly with architects and designers. Their newest fixture, Jax, was born because they wanted something high-end and modular that was completely customizable and incorporated crystal as a nod to Staten's past. Available at Haute Living and through their site, Jax has inspired their next pieces as well, which take a "modular and sculptural approach to lighting spaces," says Kinsley, allowing them to work with their clients on "methodically creating bespoke spaces." [lakeandwells.com](http://lakeandwells.com)

CONTINUED...



2 The latest design from Mark Kinsley and Tamera Leigh Staten of Lake + Wells is Jax—their take on a modern modular chandelier with anodized aluminum and handpolished crystal.