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REAL ESTATE



5 NYC design shops with serious international flair

By Heidi Mitchell

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Espasso (Brazil)



Espasso's Toto Bar.

Photo: Espasso

Brazil is known as a melting pot of cultures, so it makes sense that its homegrown design would marry international craftsmanship with the country's enviable natural resources. Since it opened in TriBeCa nearly a decade ago, Espasso has introduced the American public to now-iconic designers like Isay Weinfeld and Carlos Motta.

The 6,000-square-foot showroom is awash in exotic woods, each piece more intricate than the next. “Designers can get very creative with unusual materials,” says visionary owner Carlos Junqueira.

A prime example: The Moeda Chair by Zanini de Zanine, made of metal webbings that were left over from the production of discontinued Brazilian coins. “And Carlos Motta upholsters some of his chairs by reutilizing heavy-duty canvas from truck tarps,” says Junqueira.

Top sellers: Mole Armchair by Sergio Rodrigues, from \$10,600, and the Dinamarquesa Armchair by Jorge Zalszupin, from \$7,450; espasso.com