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MIKASA SERVING PLATE, \$35. *The Arthur*, 550 College St., 416-972-0725, thearthur.co. **ELECTRA PLATES**, \$35 each. *The Arthur*. **GRASS BOWLS**, \$35. *Snob*, 388 Carlaw Ave., 416-778-8778, snobstuff.com. **DANSK ODIN FLATWARE**, \$189 for set. *The Arthur*. **GLASS**, \$14.50. *Williams-Sonoma*, 100 Bloor St. W., 416-962-9455, williams-sonoma.com. **MUG**, \$7. *The Arthur*. **WOODEN JUG**, \$225. *Snob*. **WOVEN BASKET**, \$80. *Snob*. **NAPKIN**, \$9. *The Main Course*, 1910 Avenue Rd., 416-787-7742, themaincourse.ca. **PLANT**, \$9. *Crate and Barrel*, 3401 Dufferin St., 416-657-4100, crateandbarrel.com. **BRANCHES**, courtesy of *Teatro Verde*, 100 Yorkville Ave., 416-966-2227, teatroverde.com.

stripped-down junction spot, a favourite of decorators and home decor junkies alike. Such hard-to-find pieces as wooden Kami cups designed by Oji Masanori (\$50–\$75) are handcrafted in Hokkaido, Japan. A Spanish chair in oak and leather by Borge Mogensen (\$3,950) adds warmth to the space. 2959 Dundas St. W. (at Medland St.), 416-551-9853.

PAVILION

The furniture here is perfect for condos: neutral colours are brought to life with a level of luxury that comes from the judicious use of leather, glass and mirrors. Though there are plenty of modern knock-offs (an ovoid Noguchi-style coffee table for \$449), the bulk of the stock is heavy on comfort and restrained good taste: a six-foot-long Manning sofa in charcoal (\$1,595), a tweed sectional (\$1,495), a series of bent-glass tables (from \$299). The upholstered furniture is mostly Canadian-made, with more than 500 fabrics to choose from. 739 Queen St. W. (at Tecumseth St.), 416-504-9859.

PLAN B

An edgier offshoot of the more traditional Studio B showrooms, this whitewashed space screams Euro cool. Fritz Hansen chairs (Arne Jacobsen's Egg and Swan, for example) are juxtaposed with a classic Meridiani sofa. Herman Miller Aeron chairs are de rigueur for the home office (\$970), and it's never too early to get kids appreciating Eames—Plan B stocks their decorative moulded plastic elephants (\$340). Outdoor decor, sectionals, sofas and tables from Roda will make neighbours write with envy. 380 King St. E. (at Wilkins Ave.), 416-941-1010.

POSITIVE SPACE INTERIORS

Space-compromised condo dwellers love this store for its unpretentious furnishings. Storage beds are the house specialty; they're available in a dozen finishes of cherry veneer, from truffle to an almost-black "mink" hue. The base of the bed frame doubles as a chest of drawers. Other offerings include dining chairs in dark wood with contrasting white leather upholstery. 167 Queen St. E. (at George St.), 416-360-8551.

QUASI MODO

At this Ossington boutique, the bold pieces on display—such as a flower chair by Magis that looks like an acrylic seashell (\$1,256)—are toned down by the shop's subdued atmosphere. The store is a stomping ground for interior designers, the type of people who know where to put a chair made of a mass of tangled fuchsia rope (the Vermelha chair, \$11,880). For those who love the simplicity of classic mid-century modern looks, the Herman Miller Eames chair will fit well in any living room. 120 Ossington Ave. (at Argyle St.), 416-537-4400; 789 Queen St. W. (at Manning Ave.), 416-703-8300.

ROCHE BOBOIS

Three themed collections are on display at this two-storey furniture house: Les Provinciales, an antique-inspired series honouring craftsmanship à l'ancienne; Les Contemporains, which offers clean lines; and Les Voyages, which takes its influence from exotic locales. The Louis XV-style Volutes dining table seems right out of a French villa. Oversized contemporary sofas are modular and low to the ground; many have comfy down-filled back cushions and come in several upholstery choices. 101 Parliament St. (at Adelaide St. E.), 416-366-3273.

SELENE

For more than 30 years, this 20,000-square-foot showroom has been bringing a taste of Milan to the city of Vaughan. Contemporary furnishings from luxury brands like Presotto, Sovet, Metalco and Calligaris fill the large showroom along with customizable items such as the linear Biletto bed (queen from \$2,600), which has a recessed platform and comes in a variety of custom leathers and fabrics. Accessories like earthenware bowls and vases from Rina Menardi (from \$200) come in natural hues of green, brown and stone. 8051 Keele St., Vaughan, 905-669-2606.

SNOB

Owner Denise Zidel makes frequent pilgrimages to Africa to source new goods. Pieces are understated and modern, like a Lucite console table (\$2,695), ostrich-skin end tables (\$1,295) and bistro chairs woven in a bold check pattern (\$495). Accessories are poppy and colourful: bright feather headresses from Cameroon hang like giant suns on the wall, and tie-dye pillows come in bright Mali prints (\$65–\$100). 388 Carlaw Ave. (at Dickens St.), Unit 202F, 416-778-8778.

SOUTH HILL HOME

Formerly an LCBO store, this sweeping space is filled with classic and fashionable sofas, dining and occasional tables, chairs and benches. A selection of sculptural sconces are imported from London. Pieces from The New Traditionalists (case goods and tables) are the items du jour, with enough grand mirrors (some framed with mother-of-pearl) to occupy Narcissus for eternity. 200 Dupont St. (at St. George), 416-924-7224.

SUITE 22

Bursts of green, fire-engine red and tangerine accent this large, all-white Markham showroom, which specializes in Italian furnishings. The Lago Linea collection (starting from \$4,000) is completely customizable with thin lines of floating shelves that can be arranged in any imaginable configuration. Condo-friendly furniture options include a six-seat dining table from Fiam (\$2,500), made from a single piece of glass, and pod-like coffee tables from Bonaldo (from \$1,120) that double as seating. 160 Bullock Dr., Markham, 905-554-6084.

STRUCTUBE

After years of discount furniture shopping, there comes a day when particleboard simply doesn't cut it. That's when Structube comes in handy. It offers knock-down (home assembly) pieces that cater to upscale tastes. An oak veneer and tempered glass table is \$799. A minimalist Visio glass coffee table is \$399; a dark brown leather loveseat is astonishingly cheap at \$949. 111 Avenue Rd. (at Davenport Rd.), 416-927-8252; plus eight other GTA locations.

STYLEGARAGE

Stylegarage offers furniture with solid construction, clean lines and few frills or flourishes. A club sofa with button-tufted cushions (\$3,750) is about as classic-modern as it gets. Sofas come in a variety of styles, from full-backed comfort (the Tightback, from \$2,750) to a model so minimalist it looks like a bench with a back (the popular Delano XL sofa,

from \$2,500). Modular dressers (from \$2,830) and credenzas (from \$1,750) can be rejigged with customizable doors, drawers, shelves and finishes. 938 Queen St. W. (at Shaw St.), 416-534-4343.

TENDEX

A large, airy showroom displays pieces by such high-end European names as Draenert, Wittmann and Capo d'Opera. Happily, style is matched by substance: an extendable table in solid elm by Draenert (\$14,000) is a marvel of modern engineering (gently pull one end to reveal an additional leaf). Other standouts include a Ponton sectional sofa by Leolux (\$11,000), fanciful glass coffee tables built from mouth-blown cones (\$4,350) and original Kubus chairs (from \$10,000). 247 Davenport Rd. (at Avenue Rd.), 416-515-0005.

THE UMBRA CONCEPT STORE

New products that will soon be in every student's dorm room are test marketed at this shimmery store. You'll find Karim Rashid's signature garbage can, plus bathroom and kitchen accessories, plenty of draperies and a plethora of photo frames. Standouts include graphic-print shower curtains (\$18–\$35) and pricier U Plus goods, made of durable materials. 165 John St. (at Queen), 416-599-0088.

UPCOUNTRY

Just past where King East's strip of furniture shops gives way to a hodgepodge of parking lots and construction sites, UpCountry's showroom is a lone outpost of modern style. Featured contemporary designers include Gus Studio and Timothy Oulton, but perhaps the best finds in the light-filled, two-storey emporium are among the carefully chosen crop of vintage furnishings: a mint-condition teak credenza with built-in radio, speaker and bookshelves (\$1,499) and a honey-brown cabinet with pony skin-covered doors (\$899). 310 King St. E. (at Parliament St.), 416-366-7477.

URBAN MODE

At this mecca of modern, expect functional objects for small spaces; funky sectionals include a chaise that morphs into a bed and an ottoman that doubles as a storage box. A queen-size bed (from \$1,998) has enough storage to stash a body. The full Blu Dot furniture line is on display, including a shelving system that resembles a stack of Lego. 145 Tecumseth St. (at Queen), 416-591-8834.

VISITOR PARKING FURNITURE

An eclectic array of modern furniture fills this showroom, housed in the former Stagg Inn.



Original art, Canadian-designed and -manufactured furnishings and quirky curiosities in the basement of the eponymous store from interior and furniture designer **JAMIE ALEXANDER** (page 88)