

AD Home Design Show Modern

By Jane F ~ March 19th, 2010. Filed under: [Décor](#).



Hi everyone! Surprise — it’s me, Jane F. having fun at the Architectural Digest Home Design Show, in the Miele booth.

For a long time now, I’ve wanted to see how this folding rotary iron (similar to my Mom’s mangle of long ago) worked. The guys at [Miele](#) not only let me sit down and roll a napkin through the presser, they even took my picture. This is truly a case of “try it you’ll like it.” What a hopeless appliance junkie I am.

This appeared to be the biggest and busiest AD show yet and it had a definite theme: modern. It opened yesterday, here in New York City, for its annual weekend run. Geared to drawing the public to a showcase for magazine advertisers, it has become a mecca for

all of us “designaristas.” Plus it’s an opportunity to see a huge helping of high-end modern furniture and accessories, gourmet-level appliances and a hefty mix of luxury building materials (tile, flooring, doors), handcrafted accessories (lighting, ironwork), and top European kitchen cabinets — all under one huge roof. I say huge, because it’s held on the Hudson River’s Pier 94.

So I’ll take you on a walking tour and show you some of the things I saw that I felt were new, different or simply noteworthy this year.



Modern furniture manufacturer Ligne Roset, always has a big presence at this show. This year, they furnished three of four rooms in what was called “The Essential Home,” basically a model city apartment. The living room [above] is open to the dining room [below].



Adjacent to the living and dining room is a cool, minimalist Valcucine kitchen, with tempered matte glass cabinets and countertop.



The island houses a stunning double Blanco zero-radius sink [above] fitted with an Italian Gessi faucet, a little-known brand with great style and quality. In the sink island base were a series of amazing kitchen drawers, like the one below.



This particular Valcucine cabinet design boasts aluminum and glass construction. Glass is used for many of the partitions — including the bottom of the drawer — and between cabinets as well. In addition, notice the small glowing areas of turquoise blue [top left in photo]. These are LED lights which illuminate the cabinet frame from inside. The drawer-fronts are glass, as is the counter. Beyond luscious (and I didn't see a single fingerprint).



Continuing the tour of The Essential Home apartment led me into the Ligne Roset bedroom. Charcoal gray walls and a white leather headboard gave it stunning contrast and super-sophisticated style.



A doorway in the bedroom featured grommet-hung curtains made of laser-cut fabric that made them into suedelike lace.



The Italian manufacturer, Natuzzi also showed a stunning piece of white leather furniture — their Releve sectional.



I always stop at the Tibetano rug booth because they show their samples in the round and browsers can remove them and get a wonderful feel for each rug pattern. Tibetano is a custom-only manufacturer and their most recent rugs blend wool, silk and even some metal threads.



One section of the show devoted to the work of individual craftsmen or small artisanal companies is called “Made.” There was a wide variety of products but I was struck by the overwhelming

quality and creativity. These lamps, from [Rough Edges Design](#) in Jasper, Indiana are an example of how a common material can be hand-crafted into highly designed home accessories. I fell in love with the textures of these two concrete lamps — one [left, \$975] inspired by Italian watchtowers and the other [right, \$875], inlaid with rusted washers and bits of glass tile.



There's a new [Aga Pro](#) range in town and this is it. Sleek and colorful it boasts 5 burners (the center is 15,000 btus) but the oven [below] is what's really unique about the design.



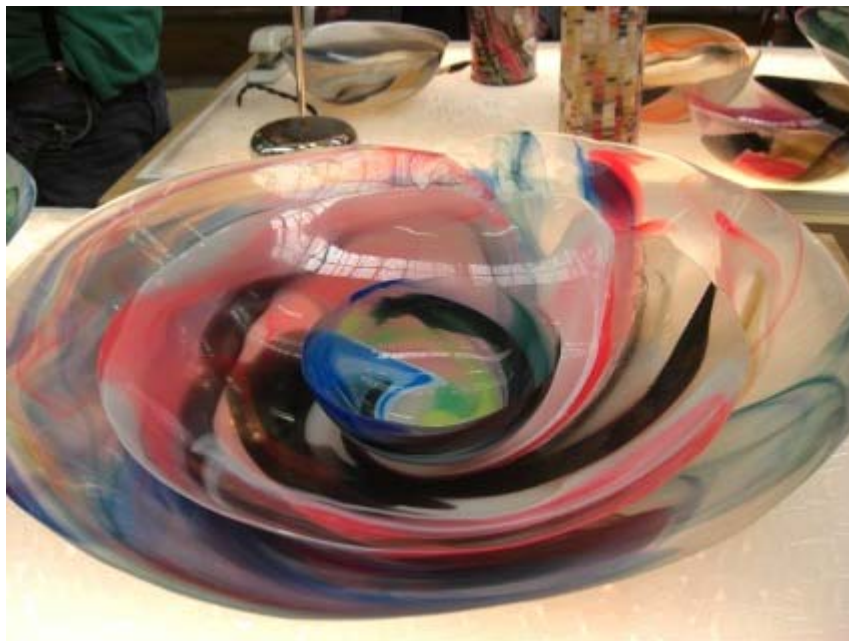
The range comes with one large single oven or one with twin chambers and heating systems behind one door [above]. The idea is that either or both sides can be used, adding flexibility and shortening preheating time that can be a nuisance in a 4.9 cubic foot oven. According to a company rep, the center divider creates a heat barrier that permits the system to work. Next week, there will be a demonstration which I certainly plan to attend. I can't wait to see how this works. Maybe we'll get a video.



Jenn Air put together a whole kitchen to showcase their appliances. It really drew a crowd. There were several very impressive pieces here, chief among them this rangetop with a stainless steel grill in the center. It's so shiny it almost looks transparent but it's merely a reflection of the tools hanging above. Jenn Air also showed their refrigerator drawers and a handsome, built-in 36-inch bottom mount fridge, impressively beefy. The company also makes a unique unit which they did not show — a 42-inch wide French door refrigerator. Duh.



Poggenpohl, another modern kitchen cabinet company that uses aluminum frames, built a full demo kitchen. I didn't hang around for the Prosecco tasting but I did take a close look at their cabinets. At the back of the photo [above] it's easy to spot their new 60's orange cabinet color, "curite." The teak laminate used on the island cabinet here is one of their bestsellers. I was interested to see that the stone counter on this island is thinner than the standard 3/4-inch, which adds to the sleek modern look. There are no handles on the cabinets — drawers open automatically when touched.



One of the most colorful, and charming, accessories at the show are these Wunderwurks plastic bowls. Strangely flexible, they reminded me of kids toys. The company also produces flexible vases and even lamps with shades made of recycled plastic — like the dramatic white chandelier.



Please stop back on Monday when we will have a spectacular viewing of tables in the show's Dining by Design pavilion, done by a host of designers to benefit DIFFA.