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TORO

CANADA'S MAGAZINE FOR MEN

JOHN CENA

CAN WRESTLING'S GOLDEN BOY
DELIVER A BOX-OFFICE BODYSLAM?

OUR GUIDE TO THE PERFECT PAD

THE CANUCK INSIDE NEW YORK'S
SENSATIONAL MAFIA-COP TRIAL

PLUS: JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE • TRAILER PARK
BOYS • CANADA'S BEST NEIGHBOURHOODS



ONES TO WATCH

1. **Castor Canadensis**, *CastorDesign.ca*

With a most Canadian-sounding name, this interdisciplinary design team from Toronto features graphic designer Ryan Taylor and stone carver Brian Richer. The duo fuses its complementary talents to sculpt "up north"-tinged furniture, lighting, and Web designs. **Signature design:** The **Sauna Box** is a prefab take on the sauna, constructed from an eight-foot section of a reappropriated steel shipping container. This hot, utilitarian man-cave is powered by solar panels and features a wood-burning stove and other high-end features such as hand-carved stone stools and a limestone sink.

2. **Brothers Dressler**, *BrothersDressler.com*

Jason and Lars Dressler, twin brothers from Toronto, have been custom-designing furniture since 2003. Sturdy, stout wooden tables and chairs betray the brothers' engineering background with their undulating, organic curves and precise ribbing and angles. **Signature design:** Incredibly simple-looking despite its structural complexity, the **Onedge Rocker** features four interlocking sections of birch-plywood ribbing bound by stainless steel riveting. The brothers have created a flowing rocking chair that looks (to the moderately intoxicated eye) as though it could be made from a single bent sheet of plywood.

3. **Matthew Kroeker**, *MatthewKroeker.com*

Based in Winnipeg, designer Matthew Kroeker crafts a mix of housewares, accessories, and consumer products that often feature some sort of conceptual trick: a side table with a stool fitted within, or a reversible coffee cup, with one end for espresso and a larger end for cappuccino. **Signature design:** **Splinter** is a pair of teak hardwood chairs that won the Prototype award at Toronto's 2006 Interior Design Show. The complementary jagged pattern on the chairs' interior edges suggests that they can be pushed together, not unlike a frigid married couple's twin beds, in the event that a seating session gets hot and heavy.

4. **Zac Ridgely**, *RidgelyStudioWorks.com*

The director of Ridgely Studio Works in Toronto, Zac Ridgely constructs inventive handmade lighting solutions for high-profile local clients, including the Drake Hotel and the 3rd Uncle-designed Lileo retail shop. Ridgely uses non-traditional materials such as river stones and crushed tempered glass to assemble his sculptural lights. **Signature design:** In his **Crush** series, Ridgely packs large, steel-mesh containers full of crushed marble or tempered glass. This material diffuses the small interior light source, producing a warm, slightly uneven light reminiscent of an oversized salt lamp.

5. **Omer Arbel**, *OmerArbel.com*

An architect by trade, 30-year-old Omer Arbel launched his first furniture design in 2003. Producing simple pieces with complex structural underpinnings, Vancouver-based Arbel's designs have thus far been produced in small batches. **Signature design:** Precarious-looking at best, the **8.0 Chair**, with its four thin surfaces radiating from a single line, is actually incredibly sturdy and immaculately balanced. Developed in collaboration with concrete manufacturer Lafarge and another material manufacturer, Formglas, the chair is built of Ductal, a super-high-strength flexible concrete product so solid that even the most masterful concrete-busting karate choppers will be quaking in their gi.

6. **Greg Ball & Shoko César**, *JohnGregBall.com, Shoko.ca, Hoodoos.ca*

Burundi-born Kanyamashoro "Shoko" César and Calgary native John Greg Ball have partnered on a line of contemporary furniture and products titled the Hoodoo Series. The pair collaborates between Alberta's two largest cities—Greg in Calgary and Shoko in Edmonton—to produce designs based on the natural landscapes of the Alberta Prairies. **Signature Design:** At nearly four feet tall, the **Hoodoo Floor Lamp** is a fluorescent light whose shape evokes the bulbous pinnacle rock formations found around Drumheller, Alberta. The piece, constructed of layers of machined coroplast, a corrugated plastic sheet material, gives off a ghostly light through its distinctive topographic rings.

— Andrew Braithwaite

