

NOW IN CALIFORNIA

new & notable



Clockwise from top left: Erode soaps, \$48 each; Salle de Bain tray, \$135; Tenon mirror, \$245; Concrete Series bowl, \$215, and the Draped Flowers curtain, \$3,800.



SAN FRANCISCO

Contemporary Craft

When Victor Lefebvre and Mei-Lan Tan left the world of architecture to launch **Umé Studio** (ume-studio.com), they had a specific vision in mind. Driven by the overlap of art, craft and function, the Herzog & de Meuron alums create unique pieces from their Oakland studio that are influenced by artisans and centuries-old techniques from around the world. “We realized that objects have the potential to define specific experiences and special moments just by themselves,” says Tan. “Our ambition is to design objects that form new rituals.” The result: beautiful and purposeful offerings for everyday living that tell a story and inspire intrigue around how they’re made. The 104 one-of-a-kind bowls (\$215 each) from their Concrete Series are at once strong and extremely fragile, expressing a tension between the heavy material and delicate hand-poured edge. The limited-edition Draped Flowers curtain (\$3,800), knit from durable washi thread, has more than 100 pockets for an ever-changing assortment of fresh flowers. Of particular interest to Lefebvre and Tan are the Erode Summit soaps (\$48), Umé Studio’s current bestseller and a collaboration with NorCal-based Tonic Naturals. “While soap is a universal product found in every bathroom, the Erode series is more than a purely functional object,” says Tan. “With use, it erodes and changes shape, creating new rituals and experiences for the user over time.” —Allison McCarthy

NAPA

WEST WORLD

Known for a world-class mix of fashion and home items, Dallas-based retailer **Forty Five Ten** (fortyfiveten.com) recently opened its fifth boutique—the first outside the Lone Star State—steps away from The French Laundry in Yountville. “Napa Valley is an untapped market for retail, so when the location came up, we pounced,” says Katherine Greenberg, the brand’s COO. The 865-square-foot store will carry items by emerging designers, such as Tome, Kalite and Jacquemus, along with pieces from established brands like Céline and Derek Lam. Home and giftables include pieces from Vista Alegre fine porcelain and textiles from Dusen Dusen, while selections from Goop, Vitners Daughter and more make up the brand’s Rare Beauty assortment. Says Greenberg, “We are a store known for its distinct point of view, so while we might tailor things for a certain area, the assortment is always patently Forty Five Ten.” —LEJ



This Knoll Barcelona chair in rose gold and a three-color pony hair, \$12,000, was created exclusively for Forty Five Ten.

FORTY FIVE TEN PHOTO BY JEFF STEPHENS