

When the moon
hits the sky like
a big glass of
wine, that's a
pizza pairing
D6



OFF DUTY



The superior
subcompact?
Dan Neil on the
2018 Toyota
C-HR
D10

EATING | DRINKING | STYLE | FASHION | DESIGN | DECORATING | ADVENTURE | TRAVEL | GEAR | GADGETS

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THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

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Get Down Tonight

This winter, the dowdy, downy puffer goes glam enough to take on the town. Practicality and warmth, meet chic

READY FOR ITS CLOSE-UP
Jacket, \$5,930,
Dress, \$1,200, and
Necklace, \$555;
Miu Miu, 212-641-2980;
Earrings, \$50,000,
Fred Leighton,
212-288-1872;
Blanket, \$8,000,
polageorgis.com;
Unattributed Chair,
\$3,500, High Style
Deco, 212-647-0035.
Fashion Editor:
Rebecca Malinsky

BY ALEV AKTAR

THE HUMBLE DOWN coat has gone haute. Goosed by the demand for warmth and comfort from women unwilling to suffer for fashion, designers have reinvented the cold-weather staple with the same glamorous intent they use for a silky blouse or drop-dead evening gown. There's been a shift away from cloth and fur coats, as evidenced by the fall collections: These new femme-fatale puffers have been lavished with luxurious touches, from fluffy fur collars to arty prints, that make them as sophisticated as any Chanel jacket.

For years women have resigned themselves to wearing the drab commuter coat with its stodgy silhouette and unflattering channel stitching—a sort of

insulated tube with arms. The move away from that generic puffer, universally prized for its lightweight warmth yet pitied for its deeply unsexy style, is welcome. “Puffer coats used to be all about function and less about fashion, but brands like Balenciaga, Vetements, Public School, and Moncler have changed that,” said Tracy Margolies, chief merchant at Saks Fifth Avenue. “They are offering us versions that are more designed, well-tailored and novel when rendered in the colors and fabrics of the season.”

Indeed, the pleasingly plump new puffers have shed that serial conformity and shapelessness that made anyone wearing one resemble a vertical sleeping bag. Many of the newest iterations are seamed to accentuate the body, providing a womanly shapeliness in place of utilitarian boxiness. These coats stand out in the crowd instead of blending into it.

Take Sacai's dressy parka, a texture-rich mashup of nubby wool and neat nylon trim—stylish for day but glam enough for a night out. “The idea was to hybridize a ski jacket and elegant tweed jacket into one that could be worn while you ski and also in the city,” said Tokyo-based Sacai designer Chitose Abe in an email.

In a similar vein, Thom Browne's sunny yellow puffer vest features haberdashery details: double-breasted buttons and a natty notched collar with contrast trim. “I wanted to work in the same way I do when making a traditional tailored piece of clothing,” said Mr. Browne, who also designs the Moncler Gamme Bleu premium down line for men.

Miu Miu founder Miuccia Prada, meanwhile, festooned her sporty ski coats with lavish fox-fur collars, a look other designers are echoing with both faux and

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[INSIDE]

MANORS, MANORS!

With great politesse, these British estates are letting tourists spend the night **D8**



HIGH-TECH TASTINESS
The secret to precision food preparation? Induction cooktops **D9**

FOREVER YOUR GRILL

This seductive Portuguese method will have you sizzling outside long into fall **D5**

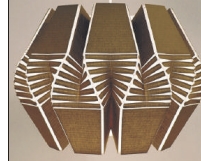


DESIGN THAT WILL SIT WELL WITH YOU
Highlights from the London fair **D4**

DESIGN & DECORATING

Plank Goodness

One part wing chair, one part Donald Judd sculpture, Sue Skeen's settle bench in oak, ash or Douglas fir stylishly updates a classic old-English form with the addition of puzzle-like arms and rounded feet. Sue Skeen Plank Settle Bench by the New Craftsman, from \$7,240, thenewcraftsmen.com

**Fronde Ambition**

Inspired by the branching patterns of ferns and palms, Irish designer Ciara O'Neill crafted a pendant light of textured book cloth and corrugated polypropylene—strong, heat-resistant and fully recyclable—that has a distinctly Scandinavian men. Frond Pendant Light, from \$380, Ciara O'Neill, 44-77-5609-2568

Coffee Mates

Whether you drip or filter, this heavyweight coffee mill in solid copper or brass will let you hand-prepare your coffee beans in style. Cyprus-born, Britain-based designer Michael Anastassiades streamlined the nearly foot-tall totemic form by developing it with an internal ratio cylinder, not a handle; the fourth-generation workshop of Carl Auböck in Vienna produced it to exacting standards. Coffee Grinder, about \$2,000, sigmarlondon.com



The Top 10 Brit List

The standout pieces from the 2017 London Design Festival

BY SARAH MEDFORD

THE BRITISH capital provided an uncharacteristically sunny backdrop for last week's 15th annual London Design Festival, the citywide event highlighting handsome innovations and fresh-to-market ideas. Stealing the foreground this year was an unusually strong cast of global creators who infiltrated the U.K. talent show in myriad, un-

missable ways. Shanghai-based Stellar Works dyed its bentwood chairs with indigo; Almira Sadar put Slovenian crochet needles to work on extra-nubby baskets and throws; and Provencal Cecilie Daladier scarred the surfaces of her flower pots with dried herbs—harvested just outside her studio door—to create ghostly, otherworldly works of art. In all, the offerings felt more like joyous passion projects than commercial endeavors. Here, our nods for best in show.

**Salt Right**

South African designer Christopher Jenner's sculptural salt cellar has a softly curving crystal bowl and a pukka-wood top that opens with the pull of a finger to reveal a spade-shaped silver spoon—and plenty of room for the white stuff. Christopher Jenner Salt Cellar by E&Co Ltd, \$600, Elkington & Co., 44-114-286-0504

**Tile for the Camera**

This playful, Instagrammable take on traditional geometric cement tile is scored on its aquamarine surface with a classic cube pattern, then hand-glazed to black out random facets of the design—resulting in a crazy-quilt effect. Creatively position the squares to bring it out. Huguet Mallorca Rialto Cement Tile from Remedios Collection, about \$160 per square yard, info@huguetmallorca.com

Napper's Delight

Checking the boxes for both "stylish" and "comfortable," Space Copenhagen's roomy oak lounge chair has an airy, not bulky, presence thanks to its spindle back and slender, patinated-brass arm rails. The well-positioned neck cushion makes it a sleeper hit, too. Space Copenhagen Gleda Chair, \$4,169, benchmarkfurniture.com

**Sweeping Statement**

British woodworker Geoffrey Fisher makes manly-looking brushes from coppiced English ash (trees that are cut back to encourage forest growth). Hand-carved and fetchingly bristled in polyester, the brushes whisk away dust, pet hair and other small annoyances. Hand Brush, \$45, Geoffrey Fisher, 888-266-1737

**Squishful Thinking**

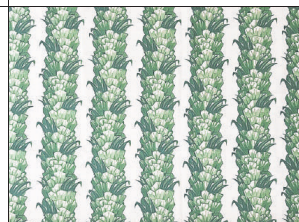
For a line of stoneware plates and cups, composites of randomly mixed colored clays are molded under pressure to turn out saquigly patterned, one-of-a-kind tableware. Splatware Plate by Granby Workshop and Assemble, about \$43, kickstarter.com

Turned Corners

Aluminum sheet metal, simply folded, results in a work table with the grace and logic of a paper airplane. Indian designer Ajay Shah fiddled for three years before hitting on this form, which is now produced in a Mumbai workshop in five colors. Ajay Shah The Table That Almost Wasn't by Rubberband, about \$2,235, rubberbandproducts.com

**Trunk Show**

In this linen fabric, pale stripes alternate with greenery that evokes the trimmed trunks of palm trees. Ideal for floor-length curtains, covering a blousy sofa or upholstering the walls of a bedroom you might laze about in on a languid Sunday afternoon. Palmetto Linen, about \$233 per yard, Tissus d'Helene Ltd., 44-20-7352-9977

**EVOLUTION**

CARRY ON DRINKING

A staple of midcentury American entertaining, the glass caddy gets a makeover worthy of contemporary cocktail culture



THEN One byproduct of the post-WWII exodus from cities: Style-cramping apartments yielded to comparatively sprawling ranch homes, giving more people freedom to entertain guests. "The American housewife, who had been a wife, mom and housekeeper, now had the additional responsibility of hostess," said New York-based event designer Bronson van Wyck. "Why should she risk embarrassment and stack a bunch of drinks on a teeter-

ing tray when she could cruise around the room with a secure and chic cocktail caddy?" The saucy servers added a layer of theater to the drinking ritual and frequently outshone the spirits. Prosted glasses and 22-karat gold motifs conveyed status; more-casual glassware involved Blendo, a dip-dye technique whose pigment faded near the vessels' rims, which were finished in gold. Midcentury Drink Caddy, \$36, chairish.com

NOW While the caddies of the past could be gaudy, today's superior cocktail ingredients and small-batch craftsmanship warrant glassware that lets you see the drink clearly, and an inconspicuous caddy to hold it in place. The Rare Whiskey Presenter Set fittingly fetishizes and protects your tippie. "The base is made from seven cross pieces of solid brass," says Christopher Gentner, a Chicago-based metal smith who designed

the aged-brass caddy with his partner, glass designer Felicia Ferrone. "This was a technical element so when you lift it up, the bars support the glasses and make it nearly impossible to knock [a drink] over." The four scotch glasses subtly taper at top, allowing imbibers to focus on the aroma first and the flavor second. Rare Whiskey Presenter Set, \$460, shophorne.com

—Miranda Agee