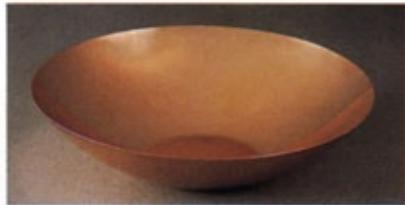


AU COURANT

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DISPATCHES FROM THE WORLD OF DESIGN

1 Bowls du jour: A former interior-space planner, David Fiocca takes a metal too long identified with old pennies, plumbing fixtures, and patinated Beaux-Arts rooftops and fashions it into sleek contemporary tableware. His solid-copper, mirror-finish serving bowls are stamped by machine, polished by hand, and come in three graduated sizes: 8-inch, 10-inch, and 12-inch; \$60, \$70, and \$80.

Available through Fiocca Design, 1025 Sweitzer Ave., Akron, OH 44311; 216-253-8822. Fiocca's stainless tableware is at Bloomingdale's, Saks Fifth Avenue, Macy's, and The MoMA Design Store at New York's Museum of Modern Art.

2 Splitting heirs: Like an amorous amoeba caught in the act of replication, Roberto Lazzeroni's cherry-wood-and-red-velvet sofa—called *Double rêve du printemps* (double dream of spring)—appears ready to spin off a sinuous twin. Designed for Ceccotti, a furniture company in Pisa, Italy, it is priced at \$5,320 and available to the trade only through Frederic Williams, 200 Lexington Ave., New York, NY 10016; 212-686-6390.

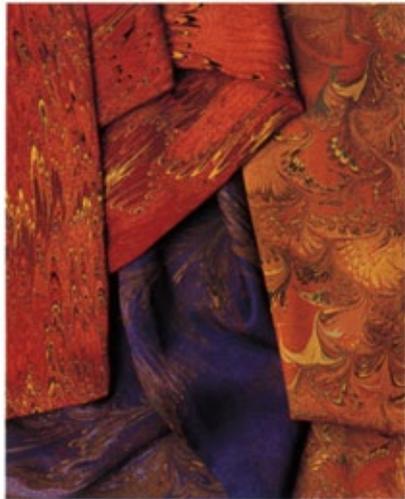
3 Prints charming: Eighteenth-century Venetian bookbinding papers known as *carta marmorizzata* inspired the marbled patterns of Pallina, a fabrics atelier founded in 1988 by

Cindy Alwan and Karen Schein. Handprinted on silk charmeuse, the duo's products are available by the vest, by the scarf, by the pillow, and by the yard at several nationwide outlets, including Barneys New York (106 Seventh Ave., New York, NY 10011; 212-929-9000); The Gwen Mazer Collection (60 Maiden Lane, San Francisco, CA 94108; 415-398-4111); and Pallina (388 Elizabeth St., San Francisco, CA 94114; 415-243-9903).

4 Man of steel: Steven Hensel started designing residential furniture in his teens. At 22, the Seattle native opened his own firm. Now 34, he's being called one of the top young design talents in America, attracting the enthusiastic patronage of Kuwaiti and Saudi royals, the Sony corporation, even the U.S. State Department, which recently commissioned him to create furnishings for an unspecified American embassy. All the applause is as much for Artex, Hensel's line of handpainted textiles and wall coverings, as for Studio Steel, a to-the-trade-only range of steel-and-glass accessories and furniture that combines the perforated geometry of the Scottish and Viennese Arts and Crafts movements with Jean-Michel Frank's alluring sense of texture. Shown is the Metro screen, \$980 per panel; Metro plinth, \$2,400; and Zephyr chalice, \$990. (For nearest showroom contact Artex Designs and Studio Steel, 2202 N. Pacific, Seattle, WA 98103; 206-547-7706.) >



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MARCO PROZZO

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ROBERT SCHREIBER