

WHAT TO SEE, READ, AND DO RIGHT NOW

POV



Creative Force

INTRODUCING THE **BLACK ARTISTS + DESIGNERS GUILD**, A NEW DIRECTORY SHINING A LIGHT ON SOME OF THE INDUSTRY'S TOP TALENTS.

PORTRAIT BY ALARIC S. CAMPBELL

FROM LEFT: Jomo Tariku, Sheila Bridges, Lisa Hunt, Rayman Boozer, Joy Moyler, Malene Barnett, and Leyden Lewis.

PRODUCED BY CHARLES CURKIN

ELLE DECOR 33

POINT OF VIEW

LAST NOVEMBER, THE Black Artists + Designers Guild launched to much fanfare in the design world. Founded by Brooklyn-based ceramist and rug designer Malene Barnett, the BAD Guild (as its members affectionately call it) is a directory of black creatives, including artists, architects, interior designers, and artisans. As a person of color, Barnett explains, she has struggled to get her work noticed—and many black colleagues had a similar experience. “We want to be part of the industry and the conversation, and to be recognized and respected for our contributions to art and design,” Barnett says. Indeed, BAD immediately struck a chord: Since its launch, 77 members have signed up, including interior designers Sheila Bridges, Joy Moyler, Rayman Boozer, and Leyden Lewis; furniture designer Jomo Tariku; and artist Lisa Hunt.

While both professionals and the public can use the directory to discover design talent, the guild is also evolving into much more than an online resource—it has become a creative community for its participants, and it soon plans to offer mentorships for students. This year is already shaping up to be one of positive change for BAD, with events and retail collaborations in the works, a pop-up exhibition at the High Point furniture fair in North Carolina, and a planned print publication.

We recently invited several members of the guild to ELLE DECOR's offices in the Hearst Tower, where photographer Alaric S. Campbell—himself a member—took the portraits for this story. At right, he and his colleagues share news about their current projects. badguild.info

Charter Members of the BAD Guild



Malene Barnett

The founder of BAD Guild is working on a solo show of her clay vessels, inspired by the mud architecture of northern Ghana and Mauritania. maleneb.com



Rayman Boozer

This New York-based decorator designs both residences and commercial projects, including Verizon Media's executive offices. apartment48.com



Sheila Bridges

The *ED A-List* decorator and creator of the iconic Harlem Toile fabric has residential projects in Brooklyn and New York's Hudson Valley under way. sheilabridges.com



Alaric S. Campbell

A Brooklyn portrait photographer with a bold, dynamic point of view, Campbell is directing the forthcoming documentary series *ArteRotica*. alaricphoto.com



Lisa Hunt

Hunt is a New York fine artist focused on pattern. Her minimalist prints are in Saatchi Art's latest catalog honoring Women's History Month. lisahuntcreative.com



Joy Moyler

A go-to decorator for such celebrities as Leonardo DiCaprio and John Mayer, the New Yorker is working on a massive residence in Portofino, Italy. joymoylerinteriors.com



Leyden Lewis

The architect and designer fashions interiors for apartments and houses. He is currently at work on a multifamily real estate development in Brooklyn. leydenlewis.com



Jomo Tariku

Originally from Ethiopia, Tariku creates evocative wood furniture inspired by his East African heritage. Now based in Virginia, Tariku launches his latest Jomo furniture collection this month. jomo-furniture.com

POINT OF VIEW



An outdoor chair designed by Jens Risom from DWR's Block Island collection.



60 SECONDS WITH...

John Edelman

THE CEO OF **DESIGN WITHIN REACH** TALKS NEW LINES AND SOFAS MADE FOR TALL PEOPLE.

What's your favorite piece from DWR's spring collection?

JE: It has to be the Sommer seating, and we had the pleasure of working on it with Danish designer Chris Halstrøm. She designed a 10-piece outdoor line and wound up achieving a new design goal: taking woven seating outdoors.

What's the secret?

JE: A miracle synthetic fiber that, when buffed, mimics the look and feel of paper cord but holds up to rain. It's also very comfortable. *What else are you working on?*

JE: We're bringing to life old sketches by the late Jens Risom of outdoor furniture that was never realized.

We're also doing another outdoor collection designed by Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec.

How tall are you?

JE: Six feet, four inches.

What's the best sofa for a tall person like you to stretch out on?

JE: Our Lecco sofa, which we just launched. It suits every size. Personally, I like to remove some of the pillows and take advantage of the sofa's overall depth. I think it's the most beautiful sofa we've ever introduced.

If you were to copy someone else's design, which would it be?

JE: The No. 2 pencil, although I think people would notice if we copied it.



The dining room at L'Avenue, the new restaurant at Saks Fifth Avenue in New York. **BELOW:** Le Chalet bar and lounge.



EAT AND DRINK

Fifth L'Avenue

Every city in Europe has at least one celebrity-magnet restaurant. In Rome, it's Dal Bolognese; in London, Chiltern Firehouse; and in Paris, it's Jean-Louis Coste's L'Avenue. An applauded hot spot, that chic eatery has been a draw for the likes of Jay-Z, Beyoncé, and Rihanna. In February, for the first time, **L'Avenue** opened an outpost outside France, on the eighth and ninth floors at **Saks Fifth Avenue** in New York City. Philippe Starck, who designed the *version originale*, created a distinct look for each of the floors, which are connected by a staircase. On floor eight is Le Chalet, a den of dim light, log beams sourced in Europe, and warm brown tones where customers can enjoy a quiet drink. Upstairs is, as Starck told us in an interview, "a cloud of ivory": pastel furniture and shagreen-wrapped columns evoking the mid-1940s—perfect for both power lunches and Sunday brunches. "This entire place is deeply sexy, because it's timeless and elegant," Starck says. It's only a matter of time before it becomes not one, but two hotbeds of celebrity activity. saksfifthavenue.com

BY THE NUMBERS

The Shed

The colossal New York City **cultural center** designed by Diller Scofidio + Renfro in collaboration with the Rockwell Group is now open.



400

artists of all disciplines took part in 18 inaugural commissions

17,000

square feet in the concert hall

4,000-

ton telescoping outer shell that moves in five minutes

L'AVENUE: PIERCE HARRISON (TOP), JUSTIN BRIDGES (BOTTOM)/COURTESY OF SAKS FIFTH AVENUE. THE SHED: BRETT BEYER, COURTESY OF DILLER SCOFIDIO + RENFRO/ROCKWELL GROUP