

# ARCHITECTURAL DIGEST

THE INTERNATIONAL DESIGN AUTHORITY

SEPTEMBER 2014

## Always in Style

FASHION INSIDERS OPEN THEIR DOORS

**AD VISITS**

**DEE + TOMMY HILFIGER**

NATALIE MASSENET

FRANCISCO COSTA

TORY BURCH

ISAAC MIZRAHI

CARLOS SOUZA

ADAM LIPPES

STEVEN KLEIN



**PLUS**

**MARELLA AGNELLI'S  
ROMANTIC  
ITALIAN VILLA**



Fernando Mastrangelo (seated) and Samuel Amoia of Brooklyn's AMMA Studio. **Right, from top:** A drum stool the duo fashioned from cement and resin-bound salt. A detail of a cement console whose interior is lined in silica.



## BUILT FROM SCRATCH

Samuel Amoia and Fernando Mastrangelo of AMMA Studio combine industrial and household ingredients into works of singular beauty

In the Brooklyn workshop of AMMA Studio, ordinary materials await alchemical transformations. Piles of salt, ground coffee, and other commonplace substances are mixed with clear resin, which binds the grains before they're joined with cement and molded into strikingly beautiful furnishings. For founders Samuel Amoia and Fernando Mastrangelo, using such unconventional media, rather than wood or stone, is a way to bring something new to the table—figuratively and literally.

"I look at furniture all day long, and it's always the same stuff, made with the same materials," says Amoia, who has his own eponymous interior design firm as well. Mastrangelo, an artist, adds, "Our idea was to do something totally fresh. If you buy a slab of marble, you already have something gorgeous. But if you start with the everyday and elevate it, you can achieve something intriguing, something special."

A drum stool, for instance, fuses baby-blue cement with pink Himalayan salt, producing exquisite strata of color and texture. A rectilinear side table is composed of a spare cement shell with a luminous silica lining. And a large-scale faceted mirror features a frame

encrusted with navy-blue glass crystals.

Although the pair just launched AMMA Studio in May—offering both limited-edition and custom-made creations—they've already received a string of notable commissions, among them pieces for Soho House in London and Berlin and for DeLorenzo Gallery in New York. The design establishment, meanwhile, is buzzing. "I love the concept behind AMMA," says AD100 decorator Stephen Sills, for whom Amoia once worked. "Their furnishings have such an elegant, minimalist quality."

The duo, for their part, are just enjoying the crossover between their independent professions. "It's sculptural furniture that can be viewed as art but is fully functional," emphasizes Amoia. As Mastrangelo notes of the pieces' often soluble origins, "even if you pour water on them, they're not going to melt." [ammastudionyc.com](http://ammastudionyc.com) —TIM MCKEOUGH