

# luxe

INTERIORS+DESIGN®

**GREATER NEW YORK**



# SCENE

WRITTEN BY SHAYNE BENOWITZ



## TABLE TALK

### SOCIAL STUDIES

With a mission to help everyone pull off the perfect event in style—picnics, weddings, dinner parties and more—Jess Latham and Amy Griffin founded rentable tableware kit company, Social Studies, attracting investors like Reese Witherspoon and Gwyneth Paltrow. Their curated kits, which come in 40 styles, include everything from dishes and glassware to flatware and decor. *Luxe* caught up with Latham (far left) to chat entertaining this fall. [social-studies.com](https://social-studies.com)

**As we cautiously welcome guests back into our homes, what have you enjoyed most?** Seeing my family and friends in person again—nothing substitutes IRL. And dancing!

**Share one easy way to elevate your tabletop for a dinner party.** Upgrade

simple plates and glassware with bright, fun maximalist linens. Then, add an assortment of candles. Together, it makes a statement.

**What are your top tips for entertaining?** If you're cooking, do something you're really good at, even if it's simple. Your guests will still be impressed by a one-pot or sheet-pan meal. Pre-batch your cocktails, so you don't have to worry about bartending. This will keep you calm. A relaxed host equals relaxed guests.

**Any decor updates planned for your home this fall?** I've been traveling cross-country in a Texino camper van for months. It's been wonderful, but I'm ready to nest and have been eager to redo my kitchen—I'm thinking rich green cabinets.

## SHELF LIFE

### FLOWER FLASH

Cordoned off by barricades and construction cones, a riotous arrangement of sunflowers, cattails and lavender sprouts from a sunken gravel pit on West 14<sup>th</sup> Street. A cacophony of sweet peas, carnations, chrysanthemums and English garden roses cascades from a trash can. These improvisational expressions—dubbed “flower flashes”—are the creation of New York City event and floral designer Lewis Miller. Recycling flowers from his events, the idea was born of a desire to reengage with his own creativity and share the beauty of bouquets previously sequestered inside ballrooms and brownstones. “Turning my craft on its head has allowed me to share my infatuation with flowers with my fellow New Yorkers,” writes Miller in *Flower Flash* (Monacelli, October 2021), his new book chronicling these random acts of beauty. [monacellipress.com](https://monacellipress.com)

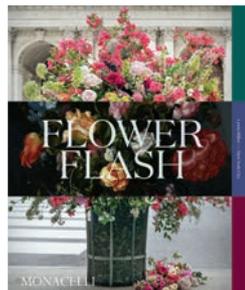


TABLE TALK PHOTO: IRINI ARAKAS GREENBAUM.  
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## NEW BEGINNINGS

DAVID DUNCAN STUDIO



Antiques dealer David Duncan, who's been a go-to for A-list designers like Bunny Williams, Michael Smith and Ellie Cullman for more than 25 years, is bidding antiquity adieu and ushering in his own line of furniture, lighting and accessories, recasting his longtime shop on East 60<sup>th</sup> Street as David Duncan

Studio. Here, Duncan discusses segueing from furniture dealer to furniture maker. [davidduncanltd.com](http://davidduncanltd.com)

### Share one of your great finds as an antiques dealer.

A large, elaborate Chinese Chippendale mirror, which I sold to Tommy and Dee Hilfiger. Later, I discovered it had been photographed by Slim Aarons in his iconic book, *A Wonderful Time*. It seemed like kismet that it now belonged to Tommy and Dee.

**Why the pivot to furniture maker?** I will always love antiques, but I felt that I needed to evolve. Technology and modern production methods have enabled us to make pieces that we couldn't have created before.

**Which pieces are you most excited about?** In addition to coffee tables and faux-bamboo light fixtures, we're using modern technology, like 3D printing and computer-aided design, along with artisanal methods, like mold-making, casting and metal fabrication, to create lamps with brilliant colored resin in unique, distinctive shapes.

### How did your longtime antiques customers respond?

We continue to be surprised and delighted by the number of clients who have reconnected and embraced our new direction. The transition has been gradual since we've produced custom lighting and furniture for many years.

## OPEN HOUSE

BANG & OLUFSEN

Danish luxury audio brand Bang & Olufsen planted its flag in SoHo inside a century-old cast-iron building with the help of New York's TPG Architecture and Japanese design studio Simplicity. With a minimalist Scandinavian aesthetic, the showroom was engineered with magnetic track lighting, imported German wood flooring, exposed brick and sawtooth walls, making use of circular pedestal fixtures and wing walls to display the brand's headphones and speakers. "We created a fresh, cutting-edge store that still honors the surrounding neighborhood," says Brian Critzman, TPG's retail director and managing associate. Plus, a residential-inspired listening room provides an acoustically designed immersive experience. [bang-olufsen.com](http://bang-olufsen.com)



## CHECK IN

PIAULE CATSKILL

"Everything is designed with one guiding principle: you are there to experience nature," says Nolan McHugh, one half of the duo behind Piaule Catskill, an upstate retreat of 24 modernist cabins on 50 acres facing the Catskill Mountains. McHugh and Trevor Briggs are the New York City creatives behind the cult homewares brand of the same name, and they've outfitted their resort with Piaule furniture and accessories alongside pieces by local craftspeople. Guests arrive to a glass, steel and cedar-clad main house hosting the restaurant and bar, while the spa lies below, carved into the hillside. "In the Hudson Valley, we saw the need for a hospitality experience that blended design, architecture and nature," says Briggs. [piaule.com](http://piaule.com)

