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MIAMI

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SHOP UPDATE

DESIGN SLEUTHS

Walking into the **Arango Design Store** is like entering a modern museum shop holding the most finely crafted decor items in a minimalist style. “We feel that beautiful and well-made objects of high-quality materials will be enjoyed by people who will want to keep them, which makes them green,” says David Russell, who owns the shop with his wife, Marianne. After more than 40 years of sourcing finely designed products between them, the duo have gained a reputation for offering shoppers exceptional wares. New case in point: Australian designer **Abi Alice’s Pianissimo bowl**, which reflects whatever it’s holding due to its mirror finish, a piece that speaks to the Russells’ curatorial sensibilities. “We’re always on the hunt for unusual objects,” says David, “and we tend to investigate the periphery of design because when you get into craft and industrialized production techniques, it’s often the lesser-known designers who are the most forward-thinking.” 5864 Sunset Drive, South Miami, 305.661.4229, arango-design.com —SH



Pianissimo bowl, \$100. Arango, South Miami

NEW & NOTEWORTHY

INSIDE & OUT

Designer **Frank Ponterio** raises the bar for his first collaboration with **Arteriors**.

By *Saxon Henry*

One look at Frank Ponterio’s **Salotto cabinet** and it’s easy to see why the piece is the crown jewel of his debut collection with **Arteriors**. The vellum panels were inspired by a pair of bronze doors at **Villa Necchi** in Milan. Originally designed to guide air through a solarium, the reinterpreted cutouts are purely decorative. Golden oak and bronze hardware are the superlative touches to this cabinet, which serves as an ideal bar. **Mariaelena Garcell**, owner of **A Bella Casa**, says the item is inevitably the focal point of any space due to its impressive craftsmanship: “Whereas someone in another part of the country might merely see a cabinet, with the social scene as it is in South Florida, we see a bar. But not just any bar; when the **Salotto cabinet** is closed, it is a beyond beautiful statement piece.” 7265 SW 48th St., South Miami, 305.661.6965, homefurnishingmiami.com

Large white Phalaenopsis bowl, \$280, by **Emilio Robba**

SAVE THE DATE

FLOWER POWER

On Dec. 1, several local museums will participate in **Museum Store Sunday**, an effort launched by the Museum Store Association to encourage shopping at cultural institutions. **Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden** is one such venue, and among the products for sale in the museum’s shop will be flower illusion art by **Emilio Robba**. Known as a sculptor of blooms, the French designer is based in Paris, but chose Miami as his North American office, with a shop in the Design District. “When I arrived in Miami 20 years ago, I was struck by how dense and luscious the vegetation was,” he says. “As a lover of nature, I visited the Fairchild as soon as I heard about it, and it quickly became my main source of inspiration. As a photographer, I would spend entire days stalking the best light and looking for the most photogenic plants.” One bowl filled with silk flowers and illusion water can take up to three days to complete, a fact that speaks to Robba’s complete commitment to his craft. 10901 Old Cutler Road, Coral Gables, 305.667.1651, fairchildgarden.org; emiliorobba.com —SH