


TIME

Style & Design

THE DESIGN 100



THE PEOPLE AND IDEAS BEHIND
TODAY'S MOST INFLUENTIAL DESIGN

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Great design is no longer reserved solely for museum-worthy products, as multitasking designers turn their attention to everything from books to artisanal food, and from lighting to transportation

Multitaskers

Six ambidextrous designers who are transforming everything from household first-aid kits to far-flung hotels



INTERIOR DESIGNER

Thomas O'Brien

GROWING UP AS THE son of an IBM executive in upstate New York must have given classic American designer O'Brien, 46, a head for business. Following a stint as a creative director at Polo Ralph Lauren, he set up shop in 1992 in New York City's SoHo, where he combined his design atelier with his furniture shop, Aero. The shop quickly became a destination for design aficionados, and soon O'Brien was creating interiors for tastemakers like Giorgio Armani as well as luxury hotels like 60 Thompson. But it was his 2005 Vintage Modern line for Target that lent mass appeal to his name. These days, with tableware for Reed & Barton and lighting for Visual Comfort, there's little in the home market that this retro-modernist doesn't have a hand in. —By Deirdre van Dyk



Reed & Barton crystal stemware