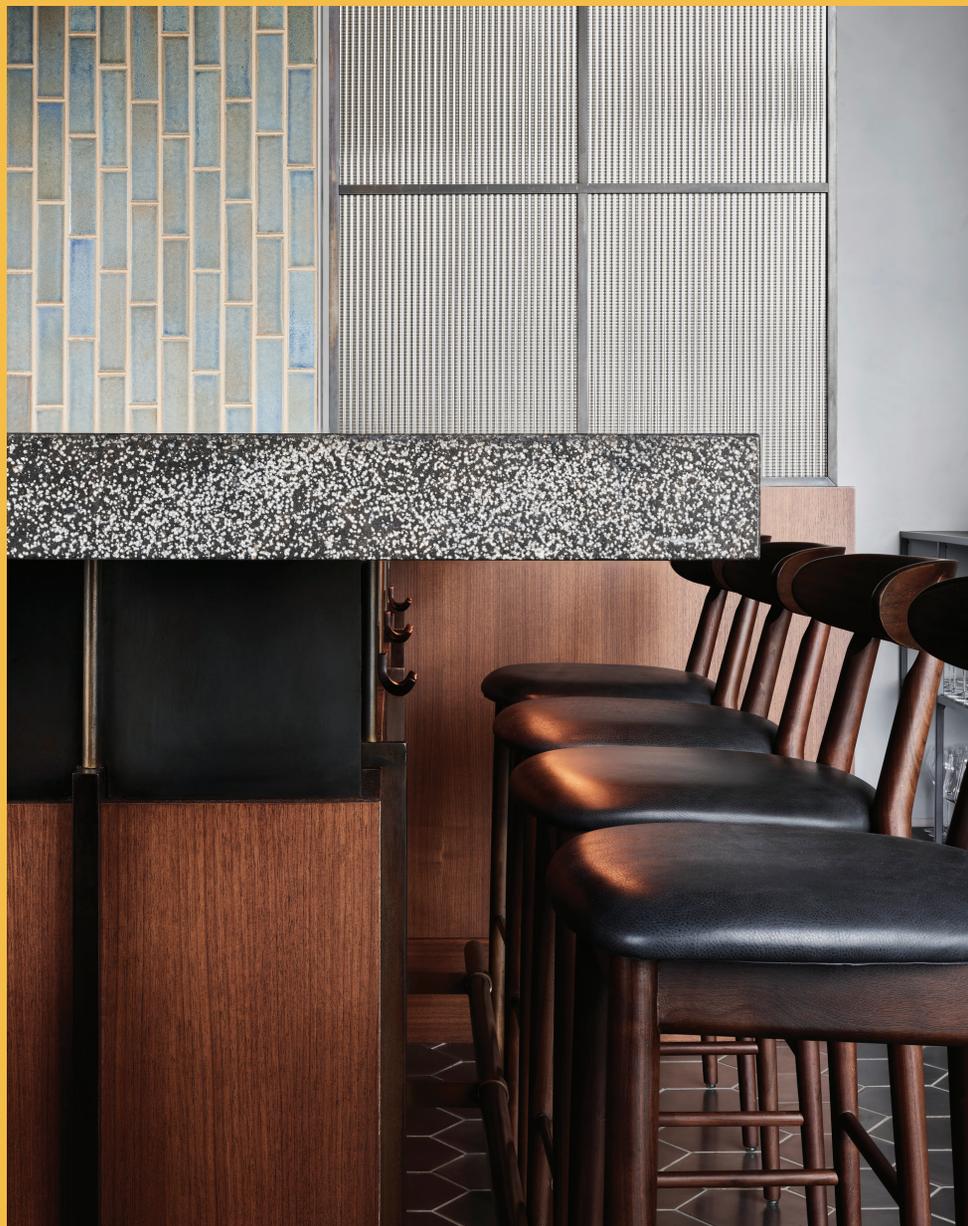


# AN INTERIOR

A magazine by  
The Architect's  
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Fall 2018



Tribeca's Downtown Design  
 Cork Furniture  
 Travelogue: Berlin  
 Dentist Office Roundup  
 Happy Birthday, Bar Basso!  
 Inflatable Architecture Today  
 Olafur Eliasson's Fjordenhus

\$6.95



# Put a Cork in It

By Gabrielle Golenda

Cork is a unique material characterized by its porous texture, softness, and lightweight quality. Historically, architects from Frank Lloyd Wright to Eiel Saarinen to Alvar Aalto to William Massie have favored the naturally environmentally sustainable material. Cork was first introduced in the built environment in 1904 as flooring, which was disseminated widely by the '20s. Into the '30s, Wright favored the bark for its natural properties and look, incorporating it into his organic architecture projects (most notably in the bathrooms in Fallingwater, completed in 1937). There are also contemporary works deploying cork in pleasantly unexpected ways, like the raw cork floor in Massie's American House in 2008. These new manifestations of the material—in furniture, interior design, and architecture—mark the beginning of a cork revival.

Cork has its drawbacks, and has thus remained a niche product: It is hand-harvested, and therefore expensive. When it is prepared for manufacturing, it is heavy to ship. Ten years ago, there were only a handful of cork molding producers around the world (mostly based in Spain and Portugal, where more than half of the world's cork supply grows). But now more companies are willing to produce cork, and new facilities are even opening up to exclusively manufacture it.

Why? Designers and architects alike are thinking about how building materials can be utilized aesthetically, but also how they can create healthy living environments. What better than a completely nontoxic, waterproof, and highly insulating substance that is also a rapidly renewable resource? For these reasons alone, cork will become ever pervasive within architecture and design in years to come.



↑ Sobreiro Collection  
Campana Studio

Humberto and Fernando Campana of Brazil-based Campana Studio designed a collection devised almost entirely of cork: a chair made from natural cork alone and three cabinets fashioned from a wooden structure made from expanded natural cork agglomerate (a material produced by heating the cork that does not contain any additives). The design duo spent time at the major Portuguese cork supplier Amorim to experiment and develop the materials they used to create the furniture before it debuted at the annual Experimenta Portugal arts and culture festival.

[campanas.com.br](http://campanas.com.br)

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- ↓ GLAÇON end table  
Lee West for Ligne Roset

Independent, Paris-based English designer Lee West cooked up a sofa end table by heating expanded natural cork and coating it with a varnish. The lightweight material is then reinforced by injecting polyurethane foam inside, making it sturdy enough for resting legs, sitting on, or holding dinner plates.

[ligne-roset.com](http://ligne-roset.com)



- Corkdrop  
Skram

This stool/side table is made with a solid walnut core swathed in cork. Upon request, custom sizes are available.

[skramfurniture.com](http://skramfurniture.com)

- ↓ Mini and Standard Sway Stool  
Daniel Michalik for kinder MODERN

Aptly dubbed Mini and Standard, these child- and adult-size stools, designed by Daniel Michalik, flex and pivot under the weight of the sitter. Making calculated slices in a solid piece of cork, Michalik produces each seat himself with his simple yet laborious self-invented production process (which is why the lead time is 8-10 weeks).

[kindermodern.com](http://kindermodern.com)

