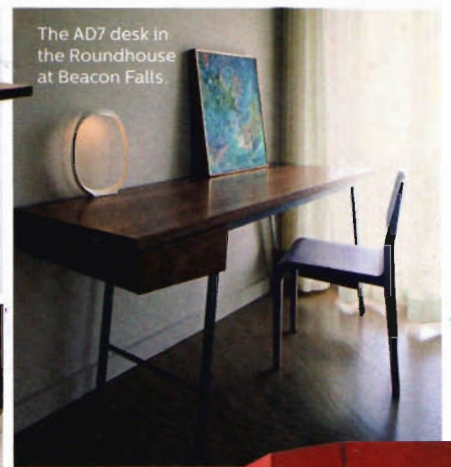




AS4 modular shelving.



AT8 table.



The AD7 desk in the Roundhouse at Beacon Falls.



Joseph Fratesi and Thomas Wright.



A residential loft project.

Lounge chair.



The AB3 bed.



Folding screen.

MATERIAL EFFECTS

The partners behind Atlas Industries bring their expertise in crafting metal and wood, and their modernist sensibility, to a rough-hewn town in upstate New York

When Joseph Fratesi explains the ethos of Atlas Industries, the furniture design and manufacturing firm he founded a decade ago with Thomas Wright, he quotes Pritzker Prize-winning architect Peter Zumthor: "He said that the best spaces just make you feel good." That could be said of any interior that includes Atlas's tables, desks, bed frames, folding screens, and cantilever chairs. Built from a seductive combination of hand-oiled hardwoods, glass or stone, and cold-rolled steel, every piece is made to order.

Perhaps best known for their eminently versatile AS4 modular shelving systems, Fratesi and Wright, who do all the designing and much of the metalwork themselves, have been anointed by design heavyweights such as Steven Harris, Deborah Berke, Michael S. Smith, and Amy Lau. "Joseph and Tom are a triple threat—they have art and architecture backgrounds, engineering minds, and a reverence for fine craftsmanship," says Lau, for whom the pair is currently designing voluptuous, sculptural shelving that will serve as the foundation

for a new modular system. A recent commission has them creating showroom fixtures and furnishings for carpet-tile giant Flor, which will bring their work to an international audience.

For any two-man firm, a global presence is as good as it gets. But what Wright and Fratesi are most excited about is a 55,000-square-foot former handbag factory in Newburgh, New York. Last spring, the partners moved their operation from Brooklyn to the Hudson River town after completing the first phase of a commission to design the beds and desks in the Roundhouse at Beacon Falls, a former gun factory turned luxury hotel and spa in nearby Beacon. They'll soon be furnishing two more former factories that have been repurposed into hotel and conference spaces, as well as designing loft interiors and completing historically accurate renovations of several houses in the region, for which they've already been recognized by the Newburgh Preservation Association. "The move has inspired us to expand, literally and creatively," says Wright. **KATHLEEN HACKETT**