



ARMANI



OP: Miami's luxe Missoni Baia residences, set to debut in 2019, will be decked out with the fashion brand's famous zigzags.

MIDDLE/ABOVE: The towering Residences by Armani/Casa, also in South Florida, boasts public areas decorated by the label, and condos that come with a \$25,000 credit toward Armani's home store.

HAUTE HOME

Swank pieces with serious style cred

5 REASONS WE'RE OBSESSED WITH DESIGNER

VLADIMIR KAGAN

THE German-born, New York-based Vladimir Kagan rose to design stardom by creating sensuous furniture — whose curving lines seduced both collectors and celebrities, from Marilyn Monroe to Brad Pitt — for nearly seven decades. Kagan died in April at the age of 88 (while still hard at work and as relevant as ever). Here, five reasons he matters now:



VLADIMIR KAGAN

1 **Celebs can't get enough Kagan:** Since the '50s, when the designer and his cabinetmaker father had a store on the UES, the famous have flocked to Kagan for furniture. Gary Cooper, Marilyn Monroe and her then-husband Arthur Miller all shopped there (though Monroe and Miller canceled their order after deciding to divorce). More recently Tom Cruise and Demi Moore have been patrons, and (a pre-split) Pitt and Angelina Jolie had Kagan make their baby furniture.



BRAD PITT

2 **Some of his final pieces are on display — and for sale — now in NYC:** Through Oct. 29, Midtown's Carpenters Workshop Gallery is presenting Kagan's last collection, *Anecy* (named for one of his granddaughters). The three-piece line demonstrates the designer's curvaceous aesthetic courtesy of a patinated aluminum console, an upholstered walnut sofa and a bronze coffee table — each developed by Kagan exclusively for the gallery in limited editions.

3 **He's still a design-world darling:** Starchitect Zaha Hadid and fashion king Tom Ford wrote the foreword and preface, respectively, to Kagan's monograph, *Vladimir Kagan: A Lifetime of Avant-Garde Design*, which he updated and reissued in 2015. Kagan's sweeping forms clearly influenced Hadid's twisting works, while Ford's intrigue with Kagan goes back to the fashion designer's days as creative director for Gucci, when the brand's boutiques were outfitted with Kagan-designed "Omnibus" sofas (all 360 commissioned by interiors master Bill Sofield).

4 **Kagan's pieces score high auction prices:** Of the nine Kagan pieces Sotheby's has had on the block this year, seven sold for well over their high estimates, with a c. 1955 glass mosaic-topped coffee table going in June for \$28,750 (nearly three times higher than expected), and his c. 1950 "Sculpture Form" sofa selling in March for \$10,625 (after an estimate of \$3,000 to \$5,000). Carina Villinger, head of Christie's 20th-century design department, says she anticipates that prices will climb higher.

5 **He never stopped working:** Kagan debuted his three-legged limited-edition bronze "Gabriella" chair at New York's Ralph Pucci International gallery last December, shortly before he passed away. Interior designer Amy Lau, a frequent and favorite collaborator with Kagan, worked with him until just before his death, recounting that he was always embracing new technology, even using a 3-D printer to create full-scale prototypes.

— Andrew Sessa