

PROFILE

H&H CHECKS IN WITH **THREE DESIGNERS** A DECADE AFTER THEY FIRST APPEARED ON OUR PAGES.

Ten years ago, the Interior Design Show initiated a groundbreaking showcase for independent and emerging Canadian designers, called Studio North, that has matured into a highly anticipated feature of the annual event, and an important launching pad for tomorrow's top talent. This month, we revisit three Studio North alumni who caught our eye early on and lived up to expectations.



*Kathryn
Walter*
Felt Studio

WHERE: Toronto (416) 652-6657 or feltstudio.com
THEN: Walter's simple modern housewares crafted from eco-friendly felt landed her on the pages of *H&H* in September 2002. A few months later, her felt handbags, pillows, lamps, log carriers and desktop organizers were shown at Studio North.

NOW: Walter highlights felt's textural appeal in large-scale installations commissioned by designers (acclaimed Toronto firm Yabu Pushelberg is a client) and architects both at home and abroad, including the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles, Calgary's Hotel Le Germain, the Gladstone Hotel in Toronto, and most recently, the reception area at Google's Montreal office.

NEXT: Taking advantage of felt's sound-softening qualities, Walter is applying her installation work to editing suites and theatres: "Applying a rippled, wave-like treatment to felt wall art enhances the aesthetic and acoustic value of a space," she says.



ABOVE: A woven wall hanging commissioned for a suite in Seattle's Hotel One.

LEFT: Walter designs custom quilts using felt remnants.



RIGHT: Spool stool, \$550.



*Bradley
Denton*
Pencil Design

WHERE: Toronto (416) 414-9764 or pencildesign.ca
THEN: Denton was profiled in *H&H* in September 2003 for designing sleek metal furniture for Roots Home that included side tables inset with mahogany and stone. He was also about to open a restaurant furnished with his pieces.

NOW: Denton's rustic yet refined interiors are visible in restaurants across Toronto, including The Harbord Room, Rodney's By Bay Oyster Bar, Delica Kitchen and Le Petit Castor, which he also co-owns. He recently finished interiors for Toronto shops All The Best Fine Foods, Olliffe Meats and Sweetgrass Flowers and filmed a special for the Food Network called *Pop-up Gourmet*, for which he created a fine dining environment in a squid processing plant.

NEXT: The renovation of the Salt and Pepper Catering Co., along with residential projects and hotel and law office revamps.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Le Petit Castor has cosy emerald booths and vintage Eaton's chairs; Delica café; a salvaged porch arcade defines the cheese area in All the Best Fine Foods.



*Pascale
Girardin*

WHERE: Montreal (514) 231-4397 or pascalegirardin.com

THEN: Girardin got her start 15 years ago designing ceramic dishes for the gift shop at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts. The successful collection led to a feature in *H&H* in February 2001 and a string of commissions from restaurants and stores, including Nobu in New York and Holt Renfrew.

NOW: Girardin still designs dishes, but is increasingly sought after for her large-scale architectural installations, of which she has completed more than 80 worldwide. Recent commissions include a series of ceramic flower pendants that hang in Paris's historic Printemps department store and an undulating feature wall in the Four Seasons Golf House in Dubai.

NEXT: New flower-shaped dishes arrive in stores this winter, and her mural art and ethereal suspended sculptures come to Atlantic City and Singapore.



Ceramic flowers in Paris department store Printemps. BELOW: Bureautique dishes, \$20 to \$75. At À Table Tout le Monde. Flower plates, \$48 to \$120. At Marie Saint Pierre.

