

Vintage Ascendant

Designers Skew Retro, and High Tech Seems So Last Year

NEW LOOKS Wall coverings on display at the International Contemporary Furniture Fair included Chrysanthemum, \$60 a roll from graharrhousa.com; a hand-painted and hand-embroidered pattern, below left, about \$950 a roll from clairecolesdesign.co.uk; and Little Leaves, below right, \$95 a roll from feelmorehuman.com. Furniture, below right, included, from left, a white pine table by Karl Zahn, \$420 from oboller.com; the Perisic Table, wood coated with silver, \$42,000 at Matter in SoHo; and a cabinet in painted oak, \$12,500 at studioochinoel.com.



NEON NOTES The lighting on display included Lumero-i-um, above, \$4,000 to \$5,000, from johncamp.com; a desk lamp, top right, about \$100 from anglopoise.com; the FXL lamp, center right, in the shape of a bulb, by Fredrik Mattson, \$950, from modobjects.net; and, to the right of it, blown glass bubble lights, \$399 each, from lindseyculbertson.com.



The glow of history is the latest thing at a furniture show.



MANY of the pieces at this year's International Contemporary Furniture Fair at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center this month felt more artisanal than manufactured, with less of the emphasis on new materials and technology that dominated the show in the last decade.

In place of high-tech plastic furniture were more pieces made of wood. New lighting fixtures tended to show off their bulbs instead of concealing them. Wall coverings, drawn by hand, had an old-fashioned feel.

Furniture makers used reclaimed, indigenous and painted wood. One designer, Karl Zahn of Brooklyn, works in white pine from upstate New York. "I like the way it ages and develops scars with use," he said. "In fact, it is made to be abused."

Jake Pevng, a Brooklyn glass artist, showed table lamps made of hand-blown glass domes that evoked vintage apothecary light bulbs, signaling a look back to the invention of the bulb, he said, rather than ahead.

Hand-drawn patterns rather than computer-generated ones covered wallpapers; the English designer Claire Gales even added hand embroidery to hers. **MARILYNNE ROSEGLYCK**

