

HOLIDAY EXTRA

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unique & luxurious
ideas for today's modern home

BY SABINE MORROW | FOR THE AJC

Home is where your special style resides. Here are some luxury touches that will spice up your decor.



An arrangement of jeweled frames that glows softly in candlelight makes for a stunning and timeless tableau. From the Platinum Collection by Jay Strongwater, who designs elegant fashion jewelry and jewels for the home, these frames include hand-enameled finishes in precious metals highlighted by hundreds of glittering Swarovski crystals. The Julienne frame (\$2,800) is hand-crafted with a 14K matte gold antique finish and set with white and topaz-tinted stones. The smaller Marshall frame (\$895) designed with softly rounded corners comes layered with tiny precious metal feathers and is hand set with brilliant crystals. The backs of these frames are as elegant as the fronts.

Made in USA, available through www.neimanmarcus.com

The Mackenzie-Childs Ridiculous Pet Bench (\$2,975) pretty much shouts it out that you have one pampered pet with a provocative sense of style. Hand made in New York, this frilly piece is crafted of woods that include birch and poplar, and the frame features splashy ceramic components. The aptly named bed combines tartan plaid and bold checks with a whimsical color palette that includes orange, bubble-gum pink and periwinkle. The washable mattress is made of cotton-coated duck fabric.

Available through www.mackenzie-childs.com



For some, it's a low-slung red sports car that screams, "look at me." How banal. On the other hand, this lipstick-red Italian job shows the world how you nimbly sidestep the norm. An impeccable likeness of a 50s retro refrigerator on the outside, Smeg (\$1,999) designed the interior with ultra modern features that include glass shelving and see-through storage bins. Whether you use it as your main fridge or stash it in the game room, Smeg makes a bold statement. Oh, and there's also a little swinging door to the freezer so you can easily reach in and grab a fistful of ice for that highball.

Available at www.westelm.com

For a bit of drama that equals a room game changer, when carried out with a generous dose of abandon, consider the Marais Six-Light Orb chandelier (\$549) from Ballard Designs. Hand crafted of steel, then finished in antique silver with a bit of gold patina peeking through, this airy chandelier looks as if you plucked it from a brocante in an enchanting French village during your last vacation.

Available at www.ballarddesigns.com



You can control your home lighting with Lutron Smart Bridge (\$119), which works with Lutron lamp and ceiling light dimmers with remotes (\$72 each). Easy to set up, the Smart Bridge plugs into your home's Wi-Fi router and installs in less than 30 minutes. The wireless Smart Bridge and software application not only connects Lutron's Caséta wireless accessories and other devices, but it allows for control from any iOS or Android-based smartphone or tablet.

Available at www.homedepot.com



Don't think of the Staub cast iron oval coq au vin oven (\$199.95) as simply an expensive pot for a classic French chicken dish. Rather, consider it a treasured family heirloom for generations of cooks, and meals, to come. Made in France from cast iron coated with enamel, this sturdy workhorse comes with a hefty lid designed with a self-basting feature and topped with a nickel-plated rooster for a knob. Beauty and brawn go hand-in-hand, and the Staub is pretty enough to slide from oven to table. The roomy 5-and-3/4-quart oven is compatible with all cooktops, including induction. Colors include basil, saffron, graphite, red and black.

Available at www.williams-sonoma.com

Pamper your skin with these products

BY ELIZABETH MONTGOMERY | FOR THE AJC

Whether you're looking to decrease dark spots, fine lines and wrinkles or want to minimize pores and even your skin tone, there is a product for you. Here are some of the top recommended and purchased skin care products and systems to incorporate into the daily regimen.

From Atlanta Dermatologist Sumayah Taliaferro, M.D.



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SkinMedica Essential Serum (\$270)

"Loaded with almost everything you need for healthy skin, it is a quintessential anti-aging product. It has a dual chamber pump. On one side, it contains the company's proprietary blend of growth factors, which is like super food for aging skin. (Think "kale for the skin.") The other side contains a powerful blend of antioxidants and anti-aging peptides."



Revision Nectifirm (\$65)

"This has been a top seller in my practice. Filled with antioxidants and anti-aging peptides, it stimulates collagen and helps to tighten and tone the skin on the neck. I frequently use it in conjunction with other treatments such as botox and skin tightening lasers, like fraxel or Exilis."



Neocutis Restorative Bio Cream (\$150 for 50ml) for face/neck. New body cream Neocutis Bio Body (\$150 for 200ml).

"I love both! The bio cream contains growth factors and lathering on the bio body is a luxurious experience that is equal to spreading on La Mer to the body! Just imagine wrapping your body in this after a nice bubble bath."

From Allison Daniels, manager:

BlueMercury, 37 West Paces Ferry N.W., Atlanta. 404-467-9100, www.bluemercury.com.

ReVive (\$65-\$600)

An American brand popular for its moisturizing renewal cream exfoliates, re-textures, renews and moisturizes facial skin. The formula works overtime as you sleep, to help eradicate imperfections and visibly diminish fine lines. It's the store's most popular item from this skin care line (\$195 for 1.7 oz.).

M61 (\$9-\$200)

Exclusive brand to Blue-Mercury. The Power Glow Peel (\$28) is a quick glycolic and salicylic acid exfoliating peel with vitamin K. It's the company's best seller. "We can't keep them on the shelves," said Daniels.

SkinCeuticals (\$40-\$200)

The store's top seller from this skin care line is the CE Ferulic serum (\$157 for 1 oz.). "It's a serum you use in the morning and it shields you against environmental aggressors in the atmosphere that breakdown collagen; I've been using it for five years," said Daniels.

Natura Bisse (\$90-\$600)

Spa-grade product, most popular item of the skin care line is the Diamond Infusion Serum (\$560 for 0.8 oz.) "The Diamond Infusion Serum is revolutionary for the skin; it changes skin instantaneously," said Daniels.

"Especially for the winter if you're looking to make your skin more supple and revitalizes it. I recommend the Power Peel and CE Ferulic in the

morning and at night use the moisture renewal creme by ReVive," Daniels added.

From Nori Bragg, manager:

The Cosmetic Market, 3130 Avalon Blvd. Alpharetta. 678-894-4012, www.thecosmeticmarket.com.

Therapy Systems (\$40-\$130)

Available in creams and serums including Non-Surgical Eye Lift (\$72), Advanced Skin Renewal (\$68), Oil Free Moisturizer (\$45) and Glycolic Body Treatment (\$55). "Therapy Systems is amazing because of all the glycolic and retinol in that brand, it's a product that's really active it's going to give a lot of fast results," said Bragg.

By Terry (\$65-\$300)

Face treatments including Cellularose Brightening Serum (\$117), Huile de Rose Firming Lifting Oil (\$106) and moisturizer Baume d'Eau (\$99). "A nice luxurious feeling skin care line would be By Terry, (Terry de Gunzburg) who is also the chemist behind Yves Saint Laurent skin care line," Bragg said.

Omorovicza (\$30-\$300)

Inspired by Hungary's famous thermal baths this skin care line enables a potent blend of minerals to be absorbed by the skin. "Our luxury skin care brand Omorovicza from Budapest (Hungary), is one of our top skin care brands along with Trish McEvoy," said Bragg.

"We have products a lot of people know about already and products we are introducing to the market that are amazing as well," Bragg added.