



Vancouver's Brent Comber turns waste wood into functional stools and tables.

Steel is unpainted and undisguised in Martha Sturdy's handmade line of furniture.



RAW DEAL

While a room full of beautifully uniform modernist furnishings is nothing to turn up your nose at, too many of these pieces in a single space can make it look cold and uninvited. An antidote is the injection of an organic glitch—an item trendies label “raw.” Raw furniture designers venerate the inconsistencies inherent in the natural materials they use and make no apologies for the blemishes that inevitably appear. There is innate, unrefined beauty in the rust that occurs naturally on a raw steel table; in the slosh marks on a hand-cast glass chandelier; in the knots left exposed on a finely sanded wood table. It's an idea very much in keeping with the current emphasis on sustainability and green design, and we like it. That said, a similar tilt toward the rough and organic in the 1970s became dramatically unfashionable when the winds shifted 180 degrees less than a decade later. SEE SOURCES

Rhodes Architectural Stone is carved from a single rock, without gluing or laminating.



Glass imperfections add to the effect created by Omer Arbel's pendant lamps.



Droog supplies three seat backs cast in bronze. The trunk is up to you.

