



Sara Wise's design instinct has never veered toward the conventional. Instead, this second-generation furniture designer—both her grandfathers were woodworkers—and trained architect draws from her personal experience and ethos to steer her standout designs. "All of my pieces are personal, functional and intimately connected to the human body," admits Wise. "It's important that the parts you touch and use have a certain tactile quality and finish that's both functional and aesthetically pleasing." It was a design studio class at the University of Washington that spurred Wise toward her current career. After the success of her Union Table, which won her high accolades, the designer began creating her own prototypes via a juxtaposed combination of eco-friendly materials like wood, steel and colored resins, which eventually became her trademark. "Furniture has overwhelmed my architectural side in the past few years because it's just so satisfying," she says. "There's something intuitive to designing with materials that only comes from working with them a lot." sarawise.com; 206.283.1411

With its linear form and sustainably harvested solid elm top, this piece represents Wise's architectural style. *Interact Bench*; price available upon request; sarawise.com



INHERENT CREATIVITY
SARA WISE



Early influence?

I always had creative impulses. When I was young, my parents and I would drive around Seattle and look at architecture. In fact, I grew up in a house that they built and designed.

Treasured possession?

My dad gave me my grandfather's hand planes from the 1940s and '50s for woodworking. I never got to meet him, but I feel a really strong connection because he was also a furniture maker.

Favorite museum?

The Guggenheim. I appreciate the architecture, and it's a fabulous place for viewing art. It's my favorite Frank Lloyd Wright building.

Design icons?

Eva Zeisel for her elegant curves, Carlo Scarpa—particularly his Castelvecchio in Verona, Alvar Aalto, who's keenly in tune with the natural environment, and Theo Jansen for his mind-blowing DaVinci-style art mixed with ingenious engineering.

Current obsession?

Finding a way to integrate my work with a nonprofit. I've been given so many amazing opportunities and I want to give back to something bigger.

Wise enjoys perusing the art and architecture at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York.

