

On the Map!

Luminaire founder Nasir Kassamali reflects on the global reach of his Miami-based design empire | By Saxon Henry |

Zaha Hadid, Iraq. Piero Lissoni, Italy. Philippe Starck, France. Brown through a contemporary furniture showroom today, and the roster of designers will read like a roll call at the U.N. But when Nasir and Nargis Kassamali (themselves from East Africa) launched Luminaire in 1974, American décor was decidedly isolationist. Through Luminaire—which began as a Miami-based retailer of Danish and Swedish lighting and expanded to include furniture, kitchens and baths—the couple introduced important international names to the U.S., premiering products by the Bouroullec brothers (France) and Konstantin Grcic (Germany).

This year, Luminaire celebrates its 35th anniversary. Nasir, who still serves as Luminaire's "editor," says he perceives a growing global consciousness in design. To illustrate the point, he selected five pieces from the Luminaire showroom by designers from various countries. "If you didn't know different you might think that one person designed these five products," he notes. **M**



1. American designer Jeffrey Bennett's Metropolitan Chair; \$2,281.40. 2. The Luta chair, designed by Italy's Antonio Citterio; \$1,177.25. 3. Japanese designer Naoto Fukasawa's Cloud Sofa; \$2,951.20. 4. The Glide Sofa, designed by French brothers Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec; currently unavailable. 5. The Low-Pad chair, designed by Jasper Morrison of the U.K.; \$1,492. Available at Luminaire, 2331 Ponce de Leon Blvd., Coral Gables, 305.448.7367 and Luminaire Lab, 4040 N.E. 2nd Ave., Miami, 305.576.5788, luminaire.com.