

StyleFiles

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TOP LEFT: Vases by Ettore Sottsass for Bitossi make a graphic statement. \$250 each. TOP RIGHT: Twinkly LED lights on the Moooi Raimond pendant evoke a starry sky. From \$2,055. RIGHT: The sleek Flow chair by MDF Italia embodies casual, contemporary dining. \$1,030. BELOW LEFT: *Habibi tray tables* by E15, \$1,495; *Metalarte Copacabana light*, \$2,330. BELOW RIGHT: LivingSpace now offers sleek kitchen designs from Italian manufacturer Arclinea.

LivingSpace owner Ross Bonetti in the newly renovated Armoury district store.



The store's floating exterior stairwell was designed by Vancouver architect Omer Arbel of Bocci.

STOREWATCH

LIVINGSACE'S NEW DIGS ARE A TRUSTY OUTPOST FOR FASHIONABLE FURNISHINGS.



FIND IT: 120 1706 West 1st Ave., (604) 683-1116 or livingspace.com

HISTORY: In 1988, Ross Bonetti opened LivingSpace in a 5,000-square-foot store on Vancouver's North Shore. A second location followed in Yaletown, before the business consolidated again in East Van in 2001 — all the while building a reputation as a go-to source for high-end, modern European furniture. Last fall, LivingSpace doubled in size yet again, this time in a sprawling 20,000-square-foot space in the Armoury district. "The Armoury is a hub for architects and designers, so by moving here we've made it easier to shop," says Bonetti.

STYLE: The new bi-level space — a bakery in the 1920s, then later a printing press — was renovated with the help of local architect Omer Arbel, who founded the well-known firm Bocci. To retain the building's rustic quality, Arbel left the ceilings exposed. "Everything is still all white," says Bonetti, "but now there's so much more character and more product to

explore." The gallery-like room setups make it feel as if you've stepped into someone's loft apartment. A new kitchen department is housed on the second level, along with a Kartell shop-in-shop offering furniture in juicy transparent colours. The upstairs also houses fave Italian furniture lines (Ligne Roset, Minotti and Flou, among others) Bonetti has carried from the beginning.

BEST BUYS: Sculptural walnut chairs (from \$700) designed by Matthew Hilton for Portuguese firm De La Espada; black and white vases (from \$250) by Italian architect Ettore Sottsass; and minimalist flatware (from \$64) by Jasper Morrison for Alessi.

WHAT TO WATCH FOR: Kitchens by Italian manufacturer Arclinea, which is known for building the ideal chef's kitchen. "If you really want to cook," says Bonetti, "this is the kitchen." — REBECCA TAY



Ligne Roset Ruche sofa, \$4,630; Patricia Urquiola Gan rug, \$4,570; Mangas Globo pouf, \$2,560.



See more of Omer Arbel's designs in our gallery. houseandhome.com/feb12