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v

# MODERN

## IN DENVER

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**DORNBRACHT PERFORMING SHOWER**

The PERFORMING SHOWER by Dornbracht is the closest you can get to showering in the pouring rain or standing beneath a waterfall in the rainforest. This extra large fixture elevates your daily shower to perfection with a soft and sensitive cascade of air-enriched water. Like the embrace of loved one, it is both relaxing and stimulating.

+[dornbracht.com](http://dornbracht.com)



MAKE A SPLASH THIS SPRING!

ALL ABOUT

# H<sub>2</sub>

MODERN IN DENVER TAKES A LOOK AT 17 USEFUL PRODUCTS THAT WILL QUENCH YOUR THIRST FOR GREAT DESIGN!

WORDS: TAMARA CHUANG  
MAIN PHOTO: TREVOR BROWN | ANDREW CLARK PHOTOGRAPHY



**RAINBOW IN THE RAIN**

To infuse your world with color on a rainy day, the Color Wheel Stick umbrella offers a 24-hued rainbow to brighten your wet walk. The 100-percent nylon canopy should hold up better than the rest in fierce weather because it has 24 panels instead of the usual eight. When not in use? It's a handy color wheel. Travel version also available.

+[momastore.org](http://momastore.org)





### A McTWIST

Cleaning a water bottle is a chore, and you never really know whether you got all that invisible gunk out. But the makers of ALEX stainless steel water bottles say they've fixed that issue. The ALEX twists open in the middle for an easier wash. This also makes eco-friendly ALEX travel friendly too, as it can be packed at half its size. The company was founded by Chris Hotell, his mom, Marta, and his wife, Gretchen Bleiler, the Olympic snowboarder from Aspen.

+alexbottle.com



### CAN-DO SPIRIT

Good design is more than just good looks, says the duo behind Alessi's colorful "Kiwi" watering can, which looks like the New Zealand flightless bird of the same name. Designers Donato D'Urbino and Paolo Lomazzi started with a container that looked like a shampoo bottle. But it wouldn't fit under the faucet. They curved the spout. It still wouldn't fit. After a series of mishaps, the two made the container horizontal and moved the opening underneath the handle. Finally! "This story might come as a surprise to anyone who thinks that bringing a good idea to life means thinking of it overnight, designing it in the morning and seeing the finished product in the evening," they said.

+j.mp/kiwican

### TALL DRINK OF WATER

There's nothing like an ice cold glass of fresh water, but a fabulous container adds a lot to the vibe. Especially one like Pii Bredahl's Water Jug for Menu A/S. "I wanted to design a product which signals water – not wine, not juice – but water," says Bredahl, a Wallpaper Design Award winner. It comes with a spout and a lid that functions on a barbell principle – it uses the water to open the jug when you pour, so you only need one hand. There's a grid inside to keep ice, fruit and herbs inside. Refreshing!

+j.mp/waterjug



### LIFE IN A VESSEL

Art & Science for All developed the BlueiQ miniature aquatic ecosystem as an educational project. Founders Brian Jenq and Brandon Foon designed the sleek vessel to look like a drop of water. BlueiQ is a self-sustained world that houses a few shrimp, snails, plants and substrate (you get to choose). Then, you leave it alone and enjoy the live art. The goal, Jenq says, is to encourage appreciation and understanding of the processes that govern the natural world (there's a 20-page owner's guide for those who need some extra prompting).

+theblueiq.com



### LOCAL FOUNTAIN MEN

Mixing engineering skills with a dose of practicality, Denver-based urbandwellers makes modern products pleasant to have at home. The flō line of water fountains, dubbed ārfoil and t-bōn, aren't just pretty objects offering a soothing sound. The Denver team made sure they didn't splash water, were easy to clean and weren't noisy. "Our first products were designed based on necessity," says Larry Beard Jr., who conjured up the first fountain with partner Bruce Littlehorn for their own urban dwelling in – where else – the WaterTower Lofts. "Now we do that for every product we design." In March, a custom version of ārfoil is expected to launch, allowing customers to choose their own accent color.

+urbandwellersonline.com

MAKE A SPLASH THIS SPRING!



### ON TARGET

This playful sculpture isn't just a wild head of hair. Plug in a garden hose, turn on the water and watch the Noodlehead sprinkler wave its mane to squirt sections of the yard. Inspired by his wife's "Benders" hair curlers, inventor Randy Cooper made the noodles flexible enough to bend in any direction, yet strong enough to stay put, no matter what the water pressure. Gardeners can direct just the right amount of water to targeted areas of the yard.

[+noodleheadsprinkler.com](http://+noodleheadsprinkler.com)



### FROM "SALUD" TO SALAD

Potting Shed Creations not only has a knack for style, but displays a heavy dose of ingenuity. The Troy, Idaho garden accessories designer cut a wine bottle in half, added clay pebbles to the base and inverted the bottleneck to hold the wool wick and seeds. Voila! Your very own upcycled, hydroponic herb garden.

[+pottingshedcreations.com](http://+pottingshedcreations.com)



### TEXTURED DESIGN

Normann Copenhagen's Mormor ceramic dinnerware has an understated elegance based on texture and simple patterns. The inspiration? Scandinavian tea towels and dishcloths found in designer Gry Fager's grandmother's kitchen, the room where Fager says "everything starts." P.S. Mormor is Danish for "Grandma."

[+j.mp/mormorcup](http://+j.mp/mormorcup)



### WASHING UP

This fun bowl comes in various colors and sizes. Designer Ole Jensen, who designed the Washing Up Bowl for Normann Copenhagen, also created a bathtub-sized version. But don't limit the smaller tub to just cleanup. Fans of the Danish design company offered a few suggestions of their own: A wine cooler, a popcorn bowl or, hmmm, a hat.

[+j.mp/washingup](http://+j.mp/washingup)



### DENTAL DECOR

You're all grown up. It's time to toss that flimsy cup and get a real toothbrush holder. Enter the Kontextur VIKTOR toothbrush holder, for a touch of art near your bathroom sink. Comes in three shapes and colors, including 18k gold.

[+kontextur.com](http://+kontextur.com)





### LET'S RETHINK

With all the bad buzz over plastic food containers, John Lown chose glass when he designed the Takeya water bottles. Easy to clean and free of toxic chemicals, the bottles are nicely designed and provide better-tasting water. There's a peephole to check water levels and a patented silicone jacket for protection from accidental breakage. Says Lown: "Most existing water bottles often look like they belong on a bike, on a hiking trail or on the soccer field. There was no bottle that looks like you can carry around to formal functions common in the urban dweller lifestyle." Two designs, classic and modern, are available in two sizes.

+takeyusa.com



### MOD-IFIER

The modern simplicity of the Crane's Drop humidifier makes it gorgeous enough to put on a pedestal. And why not? It was a finalist in the International Housewares Design Awards. On top of great looks, the Drop is quiet, doesn't need a filter, turns off when empty and puts out 2.1 gallons of moisture a day – something we here in Colorado could certainly use. Comes in orange, lime green, pink, blue and white. May as well get one for each room in the house.

+crane-usa.com



### TOTALLY TUBULAR

These delicate Hanging Test Tube Vases from Portland designer Lisa Jones are the perfect containers for a garden clipping or two. The leather strap comes in a choice of five colors. The handmade vases, cast from a vintage test tube, are just one of the several items created by Jones at her company, Pigeon Toe Ceramics.

+pigeontoceramics.com



### USE ONLY WHAT YOU NEED

Many designers who work with natural resources for sustainability like to use existing materials to upcycle and prevent further impact on the earth's resources. Kento Tomiyoshi with Tokyo design firm One Tenth developed "Hollow" by asking themselves, "Do we need a big humidifier in a moisture-laden country like Japan?" Tomiyoshi settled on filling a used water bottle with tap water, perfect for smaller rooms that need to let off a little steam. Hollow is currently in the prototype stage as One-Tenth looks for a co-developer.

+onetenth1-10.com



### GARDEN POWER

Someone at Rainforest sprinkler figured out that the higher you place the sprinkler, the more coverage you get – from 20 to 1,900 square feet, depending on water pressure. The sprinkler, with a 6-foot tripod accessory, has only one moving part, so it should last for years. But what helps this sprinkler beyond its height is its heart-shaped head, which scatters water droplets as a fine mist, thus improving water delivery to the root zone and cutting down on runoff. That decreases water usage: The sprinkler requires one-third less than most oscillating sprinklers.

+rainforestsprinklers.com