TASTE TEST!

Fab? Bad? Or just plain ugly? SoCal designers weigh in on the latest must-haves—and must-have nots

1. GRASS OTTOMAN

by Nancy Favier (of GH Design), California

MICHAEL SORIANO: Pure perfection! Smart, friendly and unpretentious. I wanna sit on it naked. **GEOFF SUMICH:** I'd love this for my library—I always admire something (or someone) with more hair than I have. **ESTEBAN LOPEZ AND JAMES NIEBLING:** This never needs mowing, and is one way to go green. Versatile enough for a minimalist space, and perfect for that indoor picnic.

2. TROPHY HANGERS

by Phil Cuttance, New Zealand

MS: Love them! Life shouldn't be so serious. I love the idea that space is not always defined by what we actually see. **GS:** As a fellow New Zealander, I'd love a row of these in the foyer of my recently constructed Newport Coast log cabin. **EL AND JN:** Best served on a cracker—it's a lot of cheese. Hangers should be neither seen nor herd.

3. AQUA CHAIR

by Kravet, United States

MS: A Frankenstein of sorts, trying to be classy and sexy and falling short of feeling cohesive. The color palette looks as if it were chosen by a 14-year-old girl. **GS:** Has nobody told this designer that being literal is the new abstract? **EL AND JN:** Great for any room that you would like to inject a bit of glamour à la "Louis goes to Hollywood."

4. HIM & HER CHAIR

by Fabio Novembre, Italy

MS: Looks like someone stole this from the Milk Bar in *A Clockwork Orange.* I'd like to know what percentage of American booties can fit into those molds. **GS:** Hmm. Maybe someone should *not* have told this designer that being literal is the new abstract! **EL AND JN:** Maybe if it came with a double-wide and a mullet. Way too gimmicky, and an 'indecent exposure' violation to the Panton chair.

5. THEME AND VARIATIONS PLATE NO. 82

by Piero Fornasetti (1913-1988), Italy

MS: Playful, witty and classy. Anything handmade these days has my support! **GS:** I guess the menu sucks. You can't beat a plain white plate! **EL AND JN:** This is a quintessential classic among a plethora of wannabes. Best when clustered in groups. ◼