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STYLE MAKERS | FURNITURE DESIGN



"I thought concrete would be fun to work with because it's a liquid that turns into stone," says Los Angeles furniture designer James de Wulf. "Once I started making things with it, I never turned back." Opposite: The Standard, High Line in New York City is a favorite escape for de Wulf.

"I'm always formulating designs in my head," explains furniture and lighting designer James de Wulf, who worked in investment banking and real estate before he began experimenting with concrete as a hobby. His first piece was a simple ashtray. "Making something with my hands gave me this completely different kind of joy," says de Wulf, who now designs far more ambitious pieces from his Los Angeles studio. "I can make a mold out of lightweight inexpensive materials, and the liquid takes any shape I want," adds the designer, noting that he uses concrete's weight and stability to his advantage in making his sturdy tables and chairs. Recently, de Wulf also ventured into lighting, designing steel and brass pieces that are "fun and expressive" counterpoints to his monolithic furnishings. "My furniture doesn't have anything superfluous. It's clean and simple with just the right proportions," de Wulf says. "It makes me happy to dream about something, make it, and then let somebody else experience it. It feels like I'm giving something back to the world." jamesdewulf.com; 310.315.7100

The Leaning coffee table, made from durable reinforced concrete with a smooth hand finish, showcases the sleek lines and minimal forms that de Wulf's designs are known for



ROCK STEADY

JAMES DE WULF



WHAT'S INSPIRING YOU NOW?
Scandinavian design. I'm working on opening a studio in Copenhagen and have been spending a fair amount of time there and in Sweden. The public spaces, benches, light posts, train stations, and new buildings all feel really right to me.

DREAM COLLABORATION:
I would enjoy working with Jawbone to create a Bluetooth boom box coffee table.

GREATEST INFLUENCE:
Wherever I am, I always like to visit contemporary art museums. Storm King Art Center, Dia:Beacon and Brooklyn Museum in New York, and the Hamburger Bahnhof in Berlin are my favorites.

MOST PEOPLE DON'T KNOW:
I graduated with a degree in economics.

FAVORITE HOTEL:
The Standard, High Line in Manhattan's Meatpacking District for the beautiful building and rooftop views.

MY WORK IS...
Very clean and contemporary. A piece of my furniture should make a room feel special without being the center of attention.