

Galerie

Live Artfully

The Collectors

Discover the personal treasures of stars from the worlds of art, design, fashion, and more





Paris architect Charles Zana (left) displays numerous works by Ettore Sottsass on a console table by Mathieu Matégot.

Charles Zana Ettore Sottsass

Under the remarkable direction of Paris architect Charles Zana, retail spaces for brands such as Goyard and Louis Vuitton have become glorious destinations in their own right, while French resorts like the Hôtel Lou Pinet in Saint-Tropez echo their chic and breezy locales with an easy sophistication. At Zana's own home in Faubourg Saint-Germain-des-Prés, his personal assortment of collectible design spans eras and aesthetics; however, he has a special love for the oeuvre of Ettore Sottsass. His works by the Memphis Group master have been displayed at the Centre Pompidou, the Musée Delacroix, and the 57th Venice Biennale. "Sottsass is one of the first architects to have understood the importance of the spiritual and the sacred," says Zana, whose most recent acquisition was a prototype vase from the 1960s in a deep blue color that is rare for Sottsass.

Collecting philosophy: "I love a mix, a collision of styles. It inspires me for my own collections, which are a repertoire in motion. I like that my furniture is not a fixed collection but an ongoing dialogue between the pieces." —JILL SIERACKI

Nathan Myhrvold | Fossils

Former Microsoft chief technology officer and current Intellectual Ventures CEO Nathan Myhrvold collects many things, among them meteorite fragments and vintage photography equipment. The most extraordinary grouping, however, is his 100-specimen-strong fossil collection, highlights of which include a megalodon jaw studded with eight-inch teeth, a 16-foot Tyrannosaurus rex displayed in his living room, and a 70-million-year-old giant turtle from Morocco. "One of the things I love about fossils is they stand for humanity's quest for knowledge about what happened before us," he explains. "They're tangible aspects of the natural world."

Major acquisition: In the late 1990s, as Myhrvold was building his Seattle-area home, he got in contact with paleontologists who ended up securing for him a massive T. rex skeleton, which was cast from actual fossils. "Cast is way more practical to mount," he says. "For real fossils, you need so much steel armature because the bones are brittle and not that strong. My cast weighs 2,500 pounds, and it would be 100 times heavier if it were real bones." —GEOFFREY MONTES

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NATHAN MYHRVOLD



FROM LEFT: Nathan Myhrvold. His massive megalodon jaw fossil features eight-inch teeth.