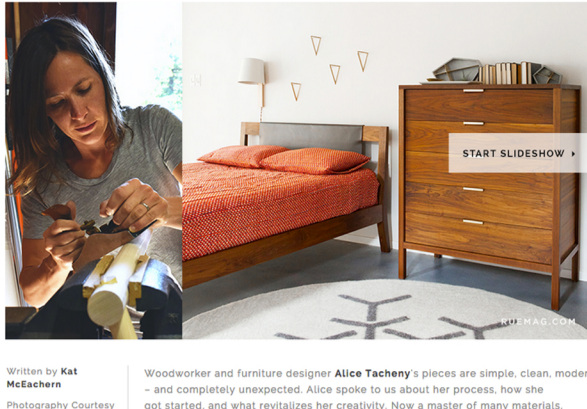


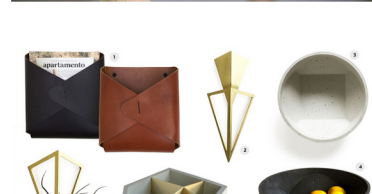
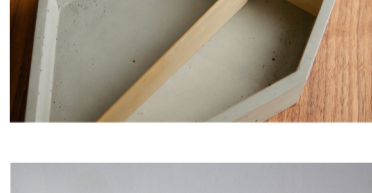
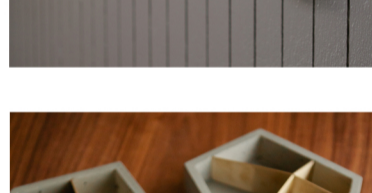
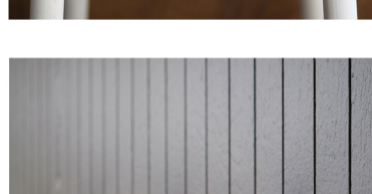
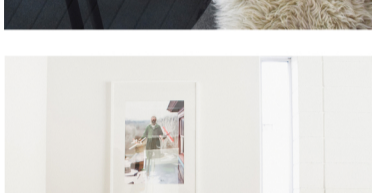
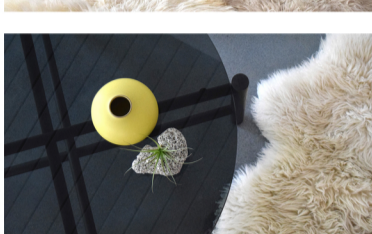
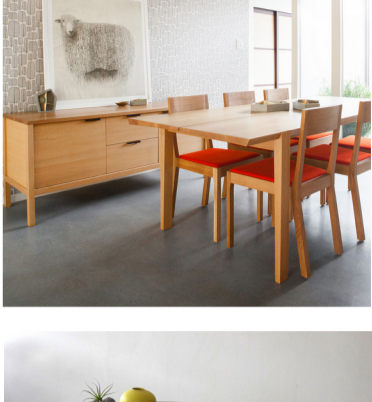
EDITORS' PICKS / MARCH 24, 2015

INSIDE FURNITURE DESIGNER, ALICE TACHENY'S CREATIVE PROCESS



Written by **Kat McEachern**
Photography Courtesy of **Alice Tacheny**

Woodworker and furniture designer **Alice Tacheny**'s pieces are simple, clean, modern – and completely unexpected. Alice spoke to us about her process, how she got started, and what revitalizes her creativity. Now a master of many materials, Alice's work combines wood, leather, and concrete in geometric shapes that feel completely organic. Flip through the slideshow to learn more!



How did you get started?

"I make furniture because I have been drawn to it since I was a child. When I was a kid we seemed to have endless pieces of funny thrift store pieces around the house and garage in various states of repair and refinishing, along with the DIY furniture projects my mom would tackle."

Furniture design by **Alice Tacheny**

"My parents were not artists and makers by trade, but there was a lot of art, pottery, gardening, cooking and handmade everything happening in my childhood."

"I first started woodworking just out of college. I learned some basics from a very kind and patient cabinet maker in Minneapolis, and then apprenticed with a woodworker named Jeff Miller for two years in Chicago, making custom high end furniture. That experience was the foundation for what I do now."

What is your favorite part of your work?

"My favorite part of my work is definitely working in the shop. It doesn't really matter what I'm working on – whether it's pouring concrete into molds or fitting joints together during a glue up. There is something about it that feels like it's the most defining part of what I do."

How do you jumpstart your creativity?

"When I need inspiration, I activate my creativity by not working and extracting myself from it completely. I really need to step out of it sometimes."

"The most refreshed and centered I feel is when I get back from a 2-3 week trip in the mountains, or somewhere else where I am forced to be off the grid."

What's your biggest challenge?

"The biggest challenge as an artisan is figuring out whether all of this time and effort you put into making things by hand is worth it in the end. I can really appreciate how well something is crafted and see the value in it, but does it translate well to the rest of the world? Telling that story is a really important part of what we do, so if you are not great at communicating that then it can be a real challenge to be successful."

The best advice you've ever been given?

"To keep going. It can be hard to do this independently and it takes time to feel success at this. I have a fantastic support system of friends and family, and wonderful husband who is my rock and has encouraged me to push through those moments of self doubt."

What skill outside of your own practice would you like to learn?

"If I could learn a different craft or skill, it would be landscape architecture or gardening. I don't have time to do this ever in my free time, but if I could spend every day outside with my hands in the dirt I would."

What is your daily routine?

"My daily routine doesn't exist as a routine. I don't think I have ever had the same day twice."

"I am a one lady show, so I get pulled into things when I don't expect it – I am very flexible in that way but it can be difficult to get everything done (somehow I cobble it together)."

Who do you admire?

"Another maker/artisan who I admire is Faye Toogood. She is not so much a maker as an artist and designer. Her work is so brilliant and she has her priorities in check; very high standards for artistry and quality, and the themes of her work are material driven, which I am drawn to."

"As a maker I also really love Tanya Aguiliga's work. The color, the texture of her work – she is masterful."

- 1. Wall Pocket
- 2. Not Concrete Bowl
- 3 & 4. Concrete Bowl
- 5. Headlands
- 6. Flax