



Brian and Page Ikeda

NATURAL INSTINCTS

PAGE IKEDA TAKES HER DESIGN CUES FROM THE GREAT OUTDOORS.

BY TRAVIS NEIGHBOR WARD

For 32-year-old Atlanta designer Page Ikeda, excitement about a home product—or any product, for that matter—begins with what lies behind it. “When I look at a product, I look not only at the design, but also at whether there is an intelligent use of materials,” says Ikeda, the creative spirit behind the Modern Basics lines of contemporary soft goods for the home. Trained originally as an industrial designer at Georgia Tech, Ikeda counts among her greatest inspirations architect Santiago Calatrava, whose “sheer marriage of engineering, architecture and art is amazing,” and design gurus Charles and Ray Eames. Ikeda also admires Droog Design out of the Netherlands, which has, she says, a “philosophy of being fearless with materials,” and Philippe Starck “because his work can

be very playful.” But, when designing her collections of throws, pillows, baby blankets and coasters (to name a few), she turns to nature, and organic or geometric elements, for ideas. “There’s definitely an Asian influence, too,” she says. “Mainly I’m drawn to Asian art and Japanese design, like things made from bamboo and stone. They’re very simplistic.” Part of that influence comes from her husband, Brian, who is half-Japanese, and his father, a watercolorist. As for the home design scene in Atlanta, Ikeda is pleased. “I think it’s a reflection of the people who live here; it’s truly eclectic,” she says. “You have the very traditional, but there are also a lot more modern avenues here than 10 years ago. It’s really hard to pin down our style. But, I think that’s a good thing.”

PORTRAIT BY YVONNE BOYD



MUST HAVES

1. RACY RUG: TOPISSIMO RUG BY NANI MARQUINA: Vibrant and plush, this Barcelona creation is hand-loomed of 100 percent New Zealand wool. Available at the Terence Conran Shop, 212.755.7249, or www.nanimarquina.com. **2. DANISH DELIGHT: EVA SOLO TEA BREWER:** Leave it to the Danes to create a tea flask with its own neoprene cover. There's a built-in press, filter, tip-up lid that automatically opens when pouring, and a drip-free lip. "It works well with different types of tea," says Ikeda. Available at www.evasolo.dk. **3. COOL STORAGE: DESIGN WITHIN REACH'S SUSSEX CREDENZA:** The inspiration for this four-door piece in oak veneer with a steel base came from a Sussex cottage shingled roof, but it's far from traditional. Also comes in a wengé finish. Available at DWR, 404.841.2471 or www.dwr.com. **4. COMFORT ZONE: SAARINEN WOMB CHAIR BY KNOLL:** Originally designed



by Finnish designer Eero Saarinen in 1948, this reproduction is made of foam over a molded fiberglass shell. Available at Retromodern.com, 404.724.0093 or www.retromodern.com. **5. PILLOW TALK: MODERN BASICS PILLOWS:** Strong, graphic lines and punchy colors make these pillows pop on your sofa. Available at Beehive Co-op, 404.351.1166, www.beehiveco-op.com or www.modernbasics.com. **6. ROCKIN' RIDE: BLU DOT BUTTERCUP ROCKER:** Molded plywood in white or ebonized oak make this "an unexpected surprise," Ikeda says. Available from Design Public, 800.506.6541 or www.designpublic.com. **7. COCKTAIL CHARMS: MODERN BASICS COASTERS:** Crafted from Ultrasuede, they're stylish and easy to clean. Available at Beehive Co-op or www.modernbasics.com.