



on fire

TODAY, ELENA COLOMBO CALLS herself a fire designer and a sculptor. However, she began her career as a director of TV commercials. Then came 9/11. Production ceased.

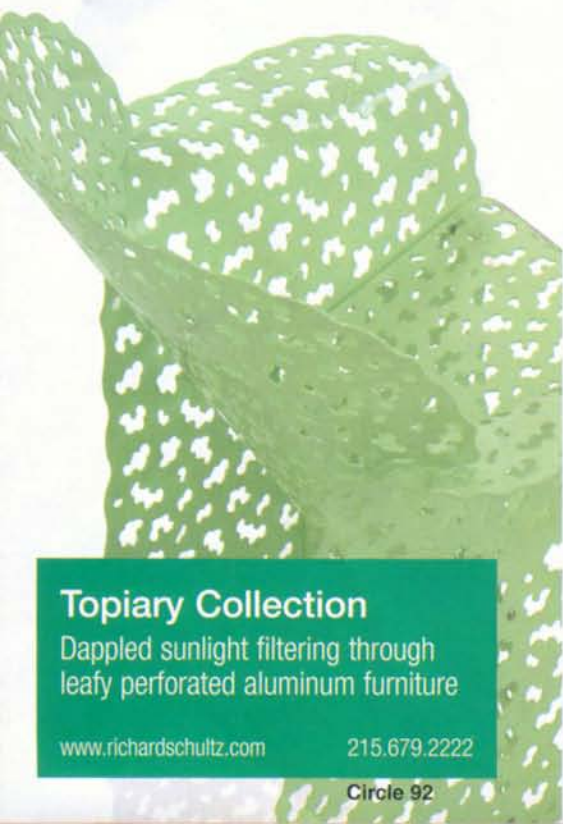
"I was at my beach house, wanting to build a bonfire," she recalls. "Trying to dry the wood, I thought, *I need a gas bonfire. And others might, too.*" This aha moment sparked the creation of →

WHO Elena Colombo.

WHAT Fire features with elemental appeal.

WHEN "As soon as I walked into Clodagh's studio, I felt our sympathies—our gravitation toward fire, air, earth, and water. She and I must have been Celtic priestesses together in a past life."

Clodagh and Elena Colombo bask in the glow from a fire that Colombo created for SL Design's Aspen restaurant in New York.



Topiary Collection

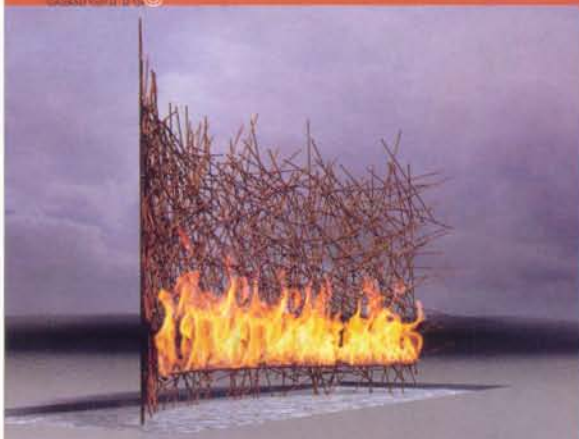
Dappled sunlight filtering through leafy perforated aluminum furniture

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talents



the Colombo Construction Corporation, a concept and fabrication firm specializing in large indoor and outdoor installations.

Her first smart move was to send a rendering of a spun-steel fire bowl to André Balazs—who ordered five, two of them for the pool area of his Raleigh Hotel in Miami Beach. Dodd Mitchell commissioned 10 for the poolside at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel. New York restaurant Aspen, designed by SL Design, is aglow with her fire bowl and round hood.

"Elena's work taps into the ritual that's part of our lives," says Clodagh, who brought Colombo on board for two hotel projects, Goldeneye in Jamaica and the W Fort Lauderdale in Florida. Colombo's definitely hot.

—Edie Cohen



From top: Colombo's rendering of a 9-by-30-foot Cor-Ten steel fire wall for Pebble Beach Resorts in California. A spun-steel bowl commissioned for a residence in Waverly, Pennsylvania. A proposed memorial for the Scottish 19th-century distillery architect Charles Doig. Intended for the Hamptons Home & Garden Show, the design for a steel vessel cut with a water jet. Aspen's carbon-steel fire bowl and hood.