

# A NEW CB2 COLLECTION CELEBRATES BLACK VOICES IN DESIGN

*Shop home decor from 11 Black artists and designers from around the world.*

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CB2

**G**ood design centers around beauty and function, but the best design goes further and infuses a narrative into chairs, consoles, and side tables. That idea of storytelling has always been essential to Evan Jerry of [Studio Anansi](#), a designer whose résumé includes projects with [TRNK](#) and [Sight Unseen](#). His latest endeavor, a new collection curated for [CB2](#), continues that theme by bringing Black voices and stories in design to the foreground. Dubbed the [Black in Design Collective](#), the launch incorporates work from 11 Black designers and artists.



A bust by Sandra Githinji sits atop a console table by Jerome Byron.

“The brief was to express how you see Black futures in design,” Jerry tells ELLE DECOR of the creative process. “How designers perceived that was completely up to them—I was very mindful not to interfere with how they wanted to express that.”

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The responses are wide-ranging and encompass many different cultures and backgrounds: Sandra Githinji, a designer from Kenya, pulled from traditional Kikuyu stool silhouettes for her Dome coffee table; Luam Melake, who is based in New York, modeled her Barber leather chair after barbershop seats in Harlem. This international perspective was paramount to Jerry when tapping designers to take part. “I didn’t just want to focus on the Western gaze and what’s happening in North America,” he says. “I wanted to have a very international approach to this so we can see how Black narratives connect from a global perspective—and how they differ.”

Take light fixtures by Dimitri Zephir, which feature brass leaves inspired by the riverbanks of Guadeloupe, or Elan Byrd’s rattan vases that mimic the shapes of traditional ceramics. Another standout for Jerry is Jerome Byron’s work, which includes an architectural side table and console that seamlessly balance positive and negative space. “He has this structural presence to his work,” Jerry adds. “He started looking at how homes are built in the Caribbean, and he made these interesting, beautiful pieces.”

Jerry contributed work to the Black in Design Collective as well, in particular, the Arc bronze velvet bench, which represents a moment of coming together, conversation, and unity within the Black community.

Like all of Studio Anansi’s projects, the aim of the Black in Design Collective is to push underrepresented narratives to the fore in an industry that remains woefully lacking in diverse voices. By partnering with CB2, the collection’s stories will reach an even broader audience. “I work in galleries, but that becomes less approachable,” Jerry says. “I wanted something as important as this to be as accessible as possible to the most people.”



Luam Melake's chairs paired with a pendant light by Axel Mert and a dining table by Evan Jerry.



The collection includes smaller homewares as well, among them Elan Byrd's vase baskets, Garth Roberts's white decorative bowls, and Dimitri Zephir's travertine vessel.