

ABOVE: Edra 'Bois de Rose' cabinet, \$20,585, from Space Furniture.
RIGHT: Bethan Laura Wood 'Hot Rock' cabinet; woodlondon.co.uk.

ABOVE: Token 'Dry Bar'; tokennyc.com.
TOP: Kelly Wearstler 'Mulholland' console table, \$10,170; kellywearstler.com.

Porro 'Maggio' elm, oak and acacia cabinet by Alessandro Mendini; enquiries to Space Furniture.

RIGHT: Bethan Laura Wood 'Play Time' table; woodlondon.co.uk.

Jallu Ebénistes 'Eloane' radiant lamp with straw marquetry base; yannjallu.net.
ABOVE: Kelly Wearstler 'Mulholland' side table, \$3710; kellywearstler.com.

Polished PIECES

A RENEWED APPRECIATION FOR DETAIL GIVES MARQUETRY THE KISS OF LIFE.

So laborious is straw marquetry — in which each piece of straw is opened, flattened and dyed by hand — that it was used to occupy French prisoners during the Napoleonic wars. Any form of marquetry, where thin veneers are pieced together to form geometric shapes or pictures (parquetry) is time-consuming. Fussy puzzles of woods and ivory were in vogue in the 17th and 18th centuries, but re-routing down the minimalist path in the 1950s rendered marquetry unfashionable until the current resurgence. Modern versions include Bethan Laura Wood's, updated with laminates, and Jonay's, with its high-contrast colour. Subtle twists are found at Edra and Porro, but the creations of Romanian-born artist and designer Violeta Galan are almost a psychedelic take on this age-old craft. *For more information on the products featured on this page, see Sources, last pages.*

ABOVE: 'Serpentine I' cabinet by Violeta Galan; violetagalan.co.uk.
RIGHT: Jonay 'Spirits Box' bar cabinet; jonay.net.

'Tulip I' sideboard by Violeta Galan; violetagalan.co.uk.