

INTERIOR DESIGN[®]

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branching out

See page 166 for a Tokyo installation by
Emmanuelle Moureaux Architecture + Design.
Photography: Daisuke Shima/Nacása & Partners.



Talent comes in myriad forms at
five fresh-faced firms

every color

of the rainbow

text: *mairi beautyman, winifred bird, craig kellogg, and c.c. sullivan*



Rafael de Cárdenas/ Architecture at Large

firm After initially studying fashion at the Rhode Island School of Design, then designing Calvin Klein menswear, Rafael de Cárdenas says, he found himself desiring "total envelopment and immersion." So he went back to school, this time for his master's in architecture



at the University of California, Los Angeles, before returning to New York to found his firm. Fashion still figures in his work—Nike and Nordstrom are among his clients—but he's designing the environments

instead of what's sold there. In addition to retail, his portfolio encompasses restaurant, office, and residential projects, plus furniture. When the tech and media company Black Ocean acquired a four-story, 6,500-square-foot firehouse, he responded with a slick industrial envelope, pops of color, and lots of zigzags, which have become the firm's signature.

project Black Ocean, New York.

photography Floto + Warner Studio/Otto. ↗



Left, from top: An Achille Castiglioni pendant fixture hangs above the partners' office. Decking in the courtyard is ipe. In the office area, custom workstations' tops in smoked glass, edged in copper, rest on plywood bases.

Right: Rafael de Cárdenas founded his firm in 2006.

Opposite left, from top: Wool carpet covers built-in seating in a lounge. Artwork in powder-coated metal and neon accompanies the lobby's custom furniture.

Opposite right, from top: The cast-masonry firehouse dates to 1894. Perforated steel and stained birch line a corridor.

