MONOCLE

A BRIEFING ON GLOBAL AFFAIRS, BUSINESS, CULTURE & DESIGN

The art of the sell: the world's best shopkeeping and retail stars

A GLOBAL TOUR of the leading buyers, designers, cutters and curators in the retail and service sector

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SEOUL: A CITY SERVED UP





01: Toy train

When the Milwaukee Express arrived on our desk, we put aside work, pulled on our conductor's cap and let out a throaty "all aboard!". Made by Swedish firm Our Children's Gorilla, the wooden train set is crafted by hand. The wood comes from recycled railroad sleepers (pine for the wheels, oak for the carriages and birch for the locomotive). — 10 ourchildrensgorilla.com

02: Lamp

Designed by Danish duo Kasper Rønn and Jonas Bjerre-Poulsen of Norm architects, this new Milk lamp is a modern twist on the traditional Scandinavian milking stool. Manufactured by Copenhagen's &Tradition it's sure to brighten your day. — NG andtradition.com

03: Soaps

The paper used to wrap these new soaps from Compagnie de Provence is a treat for packaging fans. Complete with origami instructions to get you folding, the colourful Pantone-esque range of eight new fragrances includes rose, fig and cherry. — AR compagniedeprovence.com

04: Coat hanger table/hook

Köln-based designer Eric Degenhardt has come up with the perfect storage solution. The bent wire "Saucer" coat hook doubles as a handy shelf for keys, mobiles and loose change. Manufactured by German Schönbuch, it is also available in white and coral. — AK eric-degenhardt.com

05: Uka nail oils

Uka beauty salon founder Kiho Watanabe has nailed it with her new range of oils to keep cuticles and fingertips in check. All balms are organic and made from Moroccan Argan oil and the roll-on applicators can be used on lips or as a perfume. — AR uka.co.ip

06: Haircare products

Shampoos that don't lather? Without foaming agents or any other chemicals, Kiwi Lucy Marr's haircare range is one of the few brands living up to its claim to be completely natural. Lemon verbena and baobab

extracts will make locks look luscious. — NG sansceuticals.com

07: Carafe and cups

A trademark of the Design Incubation Centre at the National University of Singapore, d.lab proves beautiful design can also be a science. This set of carafe and cups is the result of in-house experimentation with a "selective laser sintering [SLS] process", producing a delicate but strong 1mm-thick polyamide vestibule. — Jo designincubationcentre.com/index/dlab

08: Bottle stoppers

Legnomagia has been creating quality homeware with a witty arts and crafts twist since 1978. Designed and made in Italy, these colourful avian-themed "tappi da bottiglia" are crafted

