

Power Planters

FROM ROOFTOP GARDENS TO THE FRONT PORCH, DESIGN-WORLD NEWLYWEDS **GENEVIEVE GORDER** AND **CHRISTIAN DUNBAR** CAN FIND A PLACE FOR THESE VESSELS ANYWHERE.

INTERVIEW BY CHARLES CURKIN PORTRAIT BY ALARIC S. CAMPBELL PRODUCED BY PARKER BOWIE LARSON



How big do you like your planters?

GENEVIEVE GORDER: Size matters. I love giant planters when we're talking about exteriors and we have a little more freedom with scale. I like big planters, and I cannot lie. They need friends, though. Small- and medium-sized friends. ▷

CHRISTIAN DUNBAR

is a minimalist designer who has created furniture for brands including Design Within Reach.

GENEVIEVE GORDER

is an interior designer and the host of *Best Room Wins*, a new decorating show now on Bravo.

Modern Stone Seat I
24" w. x 14" d. x 14" h.; \$1,000.
pennoyernewman.com

ED picks the BEST NEW PLANTERS

DALA PLANTER BY STEPHEN BURKS
30" dia. x 32.5" h.; \$1,290.
dedon.us

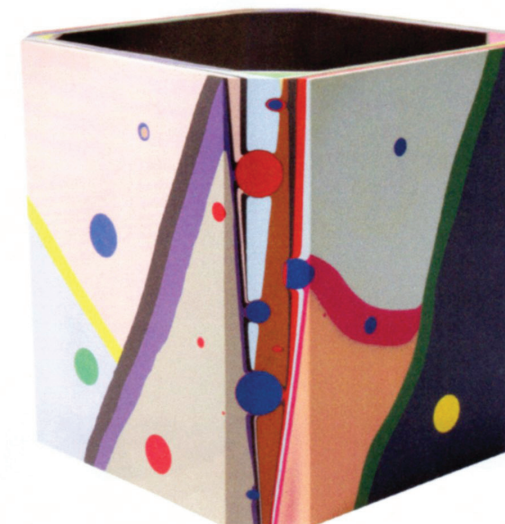


LITCHFIELD PLANTER BY BUNNY WILLIAMS
24" sq. x 27.5" h.; \$1,650.
centuryfurniture.com

COLUMN PLANTER BY BILLY COTTON
24" dia. x 27" h.; \$2,300.
seibert-rice.com



ROYAL CROWN PLANTER
28" dia. x 30" h.; \$2,300.
pennoyernewman.com



PAPUA PLANTER
15" sq. x 15" h.; \$5,600.
elysegraham.com

CHRISTIAN DUNBAR: Size can make it memorable, but I also like to think that shape is as or more important. Planters, to me, can be a big miss, or a big hit if done right. Unfortunately, they're typically an afterthought. *When is it absolutely necessary to deploy them?*

GG: If you're dealing with a porch, a terrace, or a rooftop, planters are the only way to have living things outside. It's an urban issue as far as the exterior.

CD: Wherever there is no natural dirt, like in a Brooklyn loft, then hello, planter. I do think it's a nice tool to make an architectural statement in a way that's subtle. *What's a fun, unexpected way to use them?*

GG: I use smaller planters inside on desktops and in the kitchen. Ceramic ones are way more decorative and ancient-looking. I even use them to hold pencils. They certainly don't have to be for plants.

CD: I've seen them used as troughs and fountains. A fun idea is to put a glass top on a planter to make it a coffee table. You could also turn a big one into a terrarium and put glass on top of that. *Are planters making a comeback?*

GG: Plants are a major accessory now. They're trending so hard. We live such tech-driven lives. As a global culture, we're having a big crush on nature like never before. We're trying to reconnect.

CD: Yeah, we're not all about to migrate back to the farms and fields of the Midwest. We're having to create that feeling in our cities. *When they're made of a material like terra-cotta, they can be quite heavy. Does weight matter when considering* ▷