

Currents

NEWS, PRODUCTS AND PERSONALITIES

Shows

Designing Brothers On Display

▶ From Friday through March 31, Longue Vue House & Gardens, the eight-acre estate in New Orleans formerly owned by the philanthropists Edith and Edgar Stern, will host a 30-year retrospective of the work of the versatile designing brothers Gene and Doug Meyer. The show will permeate building and grounds with a panoply of the brothers' creations that reveal their ebullient way with color and striking mixes of art and fashion. "Joe Baker, the director, has been calling it an intervention," Doug Meyer said. Garments, pillows and fabrics will be presented on mannequins throughout the main house. A 10-foot-square mirrored Plexiglas box set inside the Whim House — a guest house that had previously been closed to the public — will be a showcase for rugs. The catalog is \$12 from dougandgene.com. Information: (504) 488-5488 or longuevue.com. *ARLENE HIRST*



Deals

A New Cake Stand, Easy as Pie

▶ Housewares are up to 50 percent off at **Gretel Home**, while supplies last (the Arbour cake stand by Y'a Pas le Feu au Lac, shown, usually \$150, is \$90); (786) 247-9003, gretelhome.com.

Many bathroom accessories are 50 percent off at **Urban Archaeology**, while supplies last (the Nantucket glass shelf with cup holders, regularly from \$350, now starts at about \$175); 143 Franklin Street (Varick Street), (212) 431-4646, and 239 East 58th Street (Second Avenue), (212) 371-4646, www.urbanarchaeology.com.

Textiles, art and furnishings are up to 45 percent off at **Pip & Estel-**

la, Friday through Monday (a Zig Zag Kantha throw, originally \$218, is about \$130), (917) 397-0472, pipandestella.com.

Many furnishings are 20 percent off at **Delphinium Home**, through Feb. 7 (the \$113 Phrena lamp by Artecnic is now about \$90); 353 West 47th Street (Ninth Avenue), (212) 333-7732, delphiniumhome.com. *RIMA SUQI*

Good deals may be reported to deals@nytimes.com.



Tile Echoes of an Ancient Civilization

▶ Forrest Lesch-Middelton, a potter in Petaluma, Calif., makes ceramics that look like the products of an ancient civilization whose people proudly insisted on being buried with their dishware. The surfaces are mottled, the decorations irregular and the tones earthy siennas and fawns. Mr. Lesch-Middelton invented a tech-



nique for transferring Islamic starbursts, scrolls and flowers to the surfaces of his pots while they are still on the wheel, requiring him to shape the vessels from the inside. (He began this work in 2003, the year the United States invaded Iraq, saying he wanted to show off the artistic heritage of a culture he believed was misunderstood.)

Lately, he has adapted the look to tiles. Origins, his first collection for the tile company Clé, includes seven repeating patterns in three sizes. Prices range from \$7.50 for a 3-inch unornamented square to \$28.50 for a 6-inch square with pattern.

Information: (415) 887-9011 or cletile.com. *JULIE LASKY*



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Goods Living Small

▶ The Vermont artist Leslie Fry is known for her large outdoor sculptures, often fanciful creatures that are part flora, part fauna. Last year, in South Korea, she created a 10-foot-long piece for the Songchu Art Valley of a human head with flowers, which seems, like many of her works, to be growing up out of the ground. Recently Ms. Fry attempted sculptures scaled for inside the house. "I have a lot of architectur-

al elements in my work" she said, "and I wanted to try pieces that were small and inexpensive." The result, a perfect antidote to the gray days of winter, is the Rainbow Rowhouse, a translucent resin house 5 inches tall and 3 inches wide. The houses can be ordered individually for \$25, or as a set of eight for \$150. Upon request, a hole will be drilled in each house to enable it to be hung. Information: etsy.com/shop/FryDay. *JOYCE WADLER*



Security

Stay Tuned For Another Flicker

▶ You might not be home every evening watching television, but no burglar needs to know that. The coussating light of a television set — signature feature of an occupied home — might be enough to scare prowlers off.

That's the idea behind FakeTV (\$35), a security gadget that replicates a television's flickering light in all of its dynamic variety, from kinetic commercials to subdued news reports.

The lightweight wedge, smaller than a slice of cake, is the brain-

child of Blaine Readler, an engineer, who intentionally left his TV on when going out one night. The fake version, which uses bright LEDs, saves wear and tear on a real TV, as well as the cost of electricity. Energy-wise, it's equivalent to a 2-watt night light, said Rein Teder, president of the manufacturer, Hydreon Corporation.

And unlike most TVs today, which turn on and off with buttons or remotes, FakeTV can be put on a timer. Information: faketv.com or (877) 532-5388. *JOYCE COHEN*

