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JULY 2008

\$3.95US \$6.95CAN



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# BEST

OF THE BEST 08



Miriam Bruni large chandelier by Niba Home, \$9,375, at Niba Home, Miami

**3. DECADENT** Like all design trends, everything in moderation. To expand on embellishment, one must understand that explicitly, because there is a very real and thin line between gaudy and glorious. An accent piece, perhaps a gold-plated chair in an otherwise simple room, can be smart. The contrast is almost a relief. Elegantly over-the-top, Rococo design has been in existence since the 17th Century — case in point: Versailles. And just like the city, the trend is here to stay.

The Grotto chair by Manheim-Ruseau — a company founded in 1932 that favors detailed reproductions of French antiques — is a loud commentary on the traditional theory of Rococo design. Manheim-Ruseau was fascinated with the Rococo movement, originating in France in the 17th Century, and integrated decorative shells into everyday life. In response, the very current chair's seat and back look like an oversized clamshell, the arms resemble tentacles, and the legs the tails of seahorses finished in 22K yellow and white gold. The Grotto is decadent in the true sense of the word, almost luxuriously self-indulgent.

Chandeliers are recognized as center stage accent pieces — the more baubles and drops, the more twinkle to the eye. Niba Home's cut-glass fixture draws the eye in. Its color, mockingly close to gold, reflects colors and almost converts them to a single hue. Over four feet in height, the stature alone draws attention. But with the use of color, these dripping crystals become even more distinctly eye catching.

Sherle Wagner, the originator of over-the-top bathroom fixtures, has been producing ornate pieces since 1945. This swan basin bath fitting is delicate and beautiful. It is not subtle, yet it exists and has remained popular for so long because it can gracefully accent a clean white sink or a gold-encrusted bowl. The swans even display a sense of whimsy with their long, carved necks. Decorators love Wagner's pieces and favor their use in both traditional and contemporary spaces.



Grotto Chair in 22K yellow and white gold finish by Manheim-Ruseau, \$13,317, at John Rosselli & Associates, DCOTA, Suite A-128, Dania Beach



Swan Basin Set bath fitting in gold plate finish by Sherle Wagner, \$2,450, at Sherle Wagner International, DCOTA, Suite C-166, Dania Beach