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The Lucia chandelier has lush-curvaceous branches **BELOW** Jason and Sally Cooper in their 85,000 square-foot factory and studio located in Downtown Los Angeles.

THE LIGHT FANTASTIC

The new Thomas Cooper Limited Edition Collection pushes boundaries and breaks hearts

BY **ANN LINGLE** | PHOTOGRAPHY BY **MICHAEL DELEON**

YOU'VE HEARD IT A MILLION TIMES: We just don't make things in America anymore, certainly not in Los Angeles, where the dominant industry is entertainment. Movies, yes; things, no. But when the husband-and-wife design team of Sally Thomas Cooper and Jason Kai Cooper moved to L.A. in 2002, they had a vision. "Instead of importing beautiful lighting fixtures for our clients, we wanted to start making them," Jason remembers. "Right here."

The "right here" meant an old building in a deserted industrial section of the city with nothing but a bunch of 18-wheelers kicking up dust all day. "To put it bluntly, it was an uninspiring mess," Sally says of the 85,000 square foot building. "But even then, we could see the promise hidden inside. So we rolled up our sleeves and got to work to build a beautiful space for creating beautiful lighting fixtures."

After more than a decade of success creating



The Rough-hewn blades of hand-cast glass of the Mr. Tom wall sconce. **BELOW** Illuminated elements of the Brutale chandelier are suspended with glamorous fine jewelers chain.





“QUALITY LIGHTING IS ALL ABOUT SETTING THE RIGHT TONE AND FEELING WITH POOLS OF LIGHT.”

—SALLY THOMAS COOPER

handcrafted in the most elemental way, using natural materials—stone, alabaster, rock crystal. But they also have a modern, industrial edge.

“It’s handmade-meets-machine-age,” says Sally.

Both designers have their favorite piece in the new collection. “Mon Coeur is my current favorite,” says Jason. “The exterior of the cristale colonnade of glass is cool and slick, but the inside glows with warmth, like Paris’ Crystal Palace lit up on a spring evening. The glass is impressively thick—two inches—and hand-cast by one of our favorite artisans in Northern California. When it’s lit, the interplay of shadow and texture is simply stunning.”

Sally loves Abba. “Each fin or lens is carved by hand from beautiful Mexican alabaster and connects organically to the metal and wood rim outfitted with a modern, energy-efficient LEDs,” she says. “We think this piece would look gorgeous in a loft space, the alabaster glow offering warmth to a cool, modern interior.”

One new discovery both designers are excited about is Portuguese glass. “Though we’d worked with Murano glass before, we hadn’t heard of Portuguese glass,” says Jason. “When we went on a scouting trip to Portugal, we learned that the craft is hundreds of years old. We found some amazing artisans to work with there, and they’re now crafting gorgeous glass for us, glass that just can’t be reproduced anywhere else in the world.”

In design, nothing is static. So the Coopers continue to look for new challenges and new inspiration. At the recent Palm Springs Modern Design Week, for example, they fell in love with mid-century modern jewelry. “Classic designs are classic for good reason, but we love freshening classic looks by incorporating evolving trends,” says Sally.

And given their history and this new Limited Edition Collection, it’s clear: the Coopers won’t ever stop evolving. **CH**

To learn more about the limited edition collection, visit ThomasCooperStudio.com

iconic lighting fixtures for both the residential and commercial markets—Lusive, Luxe Light and Home, Elements of Design—Sally and Jason were craving creating something even more artisanal. “We were so busy growing the business, we never found time to design for ourselves,” says Jason. “We finally said this is our year. We pulled out all the little notebook sketches we’d been saving, gathered our favorite artisans and makers, and created our very own Limited Edition Collection of lighting fixtures.”

The new Collection is heavily influenced by Sally’s and Jason’s backgrounds. Before starting Lusive with Sally, Jason was an award-winning designer who worked for years in the entertainment industry doing lighting design for Bruce Springsteen, Hard Rock Hotels, the Mark Taper Forum and many others. Sally worked as an interior designer with a celebrity clientele and also designed notable hotels and resort projects throughout the U.S. and Latin America.

Combined with their always-evolving artistic vision, their vast experience infuses the Collection with confidence and boldness. “These are our most personal pieces by far—edgy, serious and modern,” says Sally. “We’re just thrilled we finally took the plunge to create them.”

The new Collection pieces are as much sculptures as they are lights, a perfect alchemy of form and function. They’re



TOP The Abba Chandelier features stunning alabaster fins. **MIDDLE** Flash-cracked and fire-blown glass of the Ovovo pendant shines. **BOTTOM** Stunning slabs of cristale glass form the Mon Coeur.