



↑ SARAN YEN PANYA

Thai designer Saran Yen Panya's oeuvre is an exploration of cultural contrasts. Whether it's a collaboration with a century-old prayer pillow workshop in Bangkok's Chinatown to create contemporary takes on metal street-food stools, or designing cheeky patterns for a collection of Benjarong (traditional Thai porcelain) tableware, he matches kitsch with cool, the high-end with the mundane. A recent addition to his repertoire is OMT (short for One More Thing), a textile-driven brand with a showroom in Charoenkrung, Bangkok's de facto design district. OMT's first collection, *Swear Like Thai Spirit*, consists of tote bags and holdalls with kaleidoscopic motifs created with a jacquard weaving technique and inspired by tilework and patterns found around Bangkok's historic Old Town area (56thstudio.com).



← HANS TAN

The work of this Singaporean designer blurs the lines between art, craft, and design. Using dead-stock Chinese and Peranakan porcelain as his canvas, Hans Tan explores themes such as sustainability and Asian heritage through processes that breathe new life into otherwise unfashionable ceramics. In his *Spotted Nyonya* series, for example, he masked porcelain teapots with round stickers before sand-blasting them to create a funky polka dot pattern, while a different blasting method was used for his *Sarong Party* collection (left) to emboss vases with batik designs (hanstan.net).



IN WITH THE OLD AROUND SOUTHEAST ASIA, DESIGNERS ARE DRAWING ON TRADITION TO CREATE WORKS FIT FOR THE 21ST CENTURY.

↑ HANOIA

After being introduced to Vietnam from China centuries ago, lacquer painting evolved into a nationally treasured craft. And though mass-produced imitations are rife these days, haute lacquer house Hanoi keeps the tradition alive by applying the technique to high-end home decor and contemporary jewelry. Combined with brass, the Hanoi's lines of bracelets and earrings are inspired by the intricate window grilles found around the country or natural phenomena like solar eclipses (hanoi.com).

—Chris Schalkx

← ALVIN TJITROWIRJO

Indonesia is the world's largest producer of natural rattan, and inexpensive furniture made from the vine-like plant is, unsurprisingly, ubiquitous across the archipelago. But not all rattan designs are created equal; Jakarta-based product designer Alvin Tjitrowirjo, for one, elevated and reinterprets the humble material under his eponymous alvinT label. Working with local artisans, he explores rattan's versatility by dyeing it with color injections, bending it into unconventional shapes, or combining woven rattan panels with luxe materials like leather and marble (alvin-t.com).