

# Pedestals and Place Settings

In collaboration with Manitoga/The Russel Wright Design Center, the Knoll Museum, East Greenville, presents *Pedestals and Place Settings*, celebrating fifty years of the iconic Saarinen pedestal table collection with an exhibition of Russel Wright tableware vignettes, two design collections that have helped change the face of American interiors. This mini exhibition follows a November exhibit at the Knoll showroom in New York City's historic meatpacking district.



Beautiful in their natural simplicity and functionalism, these forms enjoyed immense popularity during the middle of the 20th century. Today, a testament to the integrity of their design, Saarinen and Wright's work continues to grace interiors in America and around the world as symbols of the Modern Age.

Russel Wright, the industrial designer responsible for some of the 20th century's most widely used products, designed housewares and furnishings based on organic forms and made of easily maintained materials like stainless steel, spun aluminum, earthen ware, solid wood, paper and plastic. From the 1930s through the 1950s, his innovative and affordable dishes, as well as fabrics and furniture, adorned and defined households across America. Wright cared about making good design available to the average American and promoted an informal lifestyle in harmony with nature.

In his purist approach to architecture and furniture design, Eero Saarinen sought the essential idea and reduced it to the most effective structural solution within an overall unity of design. "The underside of typical chairs and tables makes a confusing, unrestful world," explained Saarinen. "I wanted to clear up the slum of legs." In his pedestal collection, which includes a dining, coffee and side table, Saarinen realized his ideal of formal unity.



**Knoll**