

## BEJEWELED-TO-BEDAZZLE

Furniture bedecked in precious and semiprecious stones becomes jewelry for the home.

by Jorge S. Arango



Precious and semiprecious stones have been used to decorate objects and furniture since 2500 BCE, when natives of Kerma (in the Sudan) created inlays of glazed quartzite. Other forms of this art flourished in the *pietre dure* work of 16th-century Florence, *parchin kari* of India in the 16th and 17th centuries, and on through Belgian modernism of the 1960s and '70s, most notably in the inlaid furniture of Ado Chale, 94—whose studio is still going strong. Contemporary furniture designers are using stones in traditional inlay, as well as entirely bejeweled surfaces and hand-applied to wallcoverings. There's an added bonus for those who believe in healing and protective properties of precious minerals and stones.



Out of **Studio Greytak** in Missoula, Montana, founder John Greytak constantly reviews minerals from his collection with his art department until inspiration strikes. Each year he produces unique pieces of furniture, objects, and jewelry in collaboration with artisans (about 90 percent of them within 15 or 20 miles). For the Impact table, Greytak thought about "meteors flying through the sky and impacting the planet." Out of this came a slumped glass tabletop pierced through by a stunning piece of desert rose gypsum, as if a meteor had crashed to Earth and plunged into the ocean. [studiogreytak.com](http://studiogreytak.com)