

LIGHT MY FIRE



When Ted Muehling, the noted jewelry designer whose work is often inspired by nature, came across some beautifully turned Biedermeier candlesticks, he decided to try his hand at a modern-day equivalent. "But that sort of lathing looked too delicate to pull off," he says. "Then my friend Rhett Butler showed me his amazing new computerized lathe." Butler, a manufacturer of mostly custom-made hardware, was able to achieve the extraordinarily precise curves the designer was looking for. Mueh-

ling's bronze candlesticks (\$240–\$910 each), some finished in sterling silver, are remarkably graceful. Echoing classical forms by stacking egg and dart shapes on an inverted trumpet base, they come in 17 combinations; the more elongated ones seem to float magically in space. The candlesticks are hand-waxed in Butler's workshop, to acquire the warm patina Muehling prizes. **DAN HOFSTADTER**

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