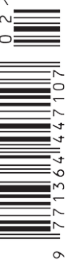


Wallpaper*

FEBRUARY 2012

*DESIGN INTERIORS FASHION ART LIFESTYLE

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BEST HOME ACCESSORY

Terrarium, by Atlas Industries

PHOTOGRAPHY: ANTHONY COTSIFAS PRODUCER: MICHAEL REYNOLDS WRITER: PAUL MCCANN





We've long been big fans of the fabrication work done by Brooklyn-based duo Thomas Wright and Joseph Fratesi. Their company, Atlas Industries, in rough and tumble Gowanus, pairs up minimalist lines with old-fashioned craftsmanship, creating sublime steel and wood flexible bookcases, shelves and modular furniture. So it gives us ridiculous pleasure to give the award for Best Home Accessory to their meticulously crafted Wardian Case Collection of bespoke garden-under-glass boxes. Named after the Victorian botanist who discovered the plant-rearing properties of sealed boxes, they're made from ultra-clear, low-iron Starphire glass, which transmits higher levels of light and has less of a blue-green cast than normal glass. The frames are hot-rolled steel with a clear satin enamel finish. The contents have been designed, in partnership with garden designer Lindsey Taylor, to need minimal upkeep — certainly less than a house plant, so handy for those who travel away from home regularly. The taller of the two (pictured this page) is planted with several phalaenopsis orchids, fancy-leaf begonias, climbing ficus, selaginella and ferns and is intended to be freestanding. The case on the low base (opposite) has several types of ferns, moss, selaginella, climbing ficus and peperomia. It's intended for tabletop use, but could also be used as a standalone piece. Wright says the aim of the terrariums is to recapture a flavour of the Victorian Wardian case as 'a finely crafted piece of furniture and a piece of living art, an object of fantasy and wonder'. Tropical, temperate woodland, tranquil zen and carnivorous bog environments are all planned. ★
www.atlaseast.com



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