interiors

$7.99

SUMMIT

A MODERN CHILL

TEXT: ZOE SETTLE

Since it launched in 1979, Summit has been committed to the green movement," says Jane Sieberts of the Monterey, California–based outdoor furniture company founded by her late husband, Bill. "At first Bill planned to have everything made in Thailand, but then he moved production to Indonesia, where the wood could be certified." Sieberts, who studied design at UCLA, took over as owner and president of Summit in 2001, when Bill retired, and the company now has showrooms in Los Angeles, San Francisco, London and Monaco. Every Summit piece is made in central Java of the finest quality teak wood, "the top one percent," Sieberts notes. "A finished piece looks as good on the underside as from above, and everything is made and hand-finished in the same factory we've been in for many years."

In late 2013 Sieberts visited a home in Pebble Beach, California, and admired the outdoor furniture, which was different from anything else she had seen on the market: It seemed younger in spirit, with lower lines. She was introduced to the designer of the project, Conrad Sanchez, based in Modesto and known for his striking contemporary work. Thus began their collaboration on the Krios collection, which was produced in nearly record time.

"We're a design-driven company, and our mantra about new designs is that they have to be better than what we have," says Seiberts. "Summit has a look that I try to keep going: beauty, quality, the crème de la crème of what teak looks like. Conrad is so dynamic and full of energy. He sketched some designs, which I edited, adding some of the metal elements, and rounding the sharper corners. In the puzzle-like modular table, I added the hatch look that we're known for. There's a timelessness to everything Summit makes, and though Krios is clearly a new direction, it still mixes well with our existing collections. The modular flexibility also makes it practical for entertaining."

"I always wanted to do furniture, I just never wanted to get into production myself," says Sanchez. "There's no better producer than Summit, so doing a collection with them is ideal. This is a different look for Summit. It's bold and a bit chunky, but it's still delicate. It has the appearance of being lower than it is, so it's really inviting. And two people can cozy up on one seat, which is a nice option with the right person!" The addition of powder-coated aluminum back supports and accents adds a jewel-like element. "I wanted the seating to look beautiful without the cushions and from every angle," says Sanchez.

Where did the name *Krios* come from? "I had thought of a straightforward name like *Pebble Beach,* but Jane always prefers collections with a one-word name," explains Sanchez. "I asked her what her son says to her when he's telling her to relax, and she said, 'He tells me to chill.' I looked up the Greek word for 'chill' and found *krios*. It just fit." ▪

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