

## L.A. at Home

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### Concrete furniture on a diet: Cool looks, lighter weight

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Pantone declared a kicky orange called Tangerine Tango as color of the year, but one of the most interesting shades hitting stores and websites this season is the cool, calm, collected gray of concrete. The material's sheer weight made it too difficult for furniture makers to manipulate and too expensive for retailers to ship in years past, but lately designers have been experimenting with lightweight composites that allow a shopper to carry a concrete side table without getting a hernia.

Zachary A. Bitner said one of his chairs in traditional concrete would tip the scale at 350 pounds, but when the same chair is made with his formulation of coarse sand and fiberglass, the weight drops to 50. The lighter composite needs no sealant and makes the piece easier to move and more resistant to cracking than concrete, Bitner said.

His Spindle table, right, has a shapely silhouette that would be difficult to deliver in traditional concrete. The design comes in two sizes, \$349 to \$499. It can be ordered through Hayward's in Santa Barbara, (805) 966-1390, or through the designer's site, [www.zacharyadesign.com](http://www.zacharyadesign.com).



**Green-form**, a Santa Monica firm that specializes in fiber cement furniture and planters, achieves the shifting-sands silhouette of *Dune*, pictured at the top of the post, with Portland cement, synthetic and organic fibers, water and microscopic air pockets. Sheets of the material are rolled out, cut and shaped by hand. Price: \$1,123 to \$1,271 per piece.



The Architect's Favorite side table, left, from **Wisteria** is made with a composite mix that has the color variations of concrete but not the weight. It's nearly 2 feet tall and just 33 pounds. \$199. *Photo from Wisteria*



The Pebble side table, right, from **West Elm** looks like a monolithic hunk of concrete but is light enough to be picked up and moved. \$149. *Photo from West Elm*



Bitner said the sand-and-fiberglass mix that he uses is so light, he actually has to add weight to his *Hive* dining table, above, to make it more stable. The table looks like concrete, right, but weighs only 50 pounds. Price: \$649.

The table is shown with Bitner's *Stone* dining chairs, \$399 each.

"Each piece has a little more or a little less sand, making them unique from one another," Bitner said by email. "That's what so many people are looking for these days. It's a mass production technique, but each is an honest original. I couldn't make an exact replica if I tried."

He has been selling the pieces occasionally through the flash sale site [Fab.com](http://Fab.com), as well as at Hayward's in Santa Barbara, (805) 966-1390, or through Bitner's site, [www.zacharyadesign.com](http://www.zacharyadesign.com). *Photos from Zachary A. Design*



— Craig Nakano and Lisa Boone

*Dune* photo from *Green-form*; *Spindle* photo from *Zachary A. Design*