



Lucile Hyacinthe-Lafarge is a cabinetmaker, decorative painter and art restorer whose hand-carved and gilded pieces were on view at Maison et Objet, the annual design and housewares show in Paris, which ended last week. She was one of several artisans whose work provided a welcome balance to the more rapid-design offerings popular this year. Her studio, called L'Astelle (Old French for atelier, or workshop) is in Annecy, a mountainous lake town near Geneva. There, she hand carves the pieces in oak and uses traditional gilding techniques, which involve the application of a glue made from rabbit skin, then covering the piece with sheets of very thin gold. Shown are a mirror (about \$1,045), a console table (about \$2,700) and a bench (about \$11,000); lastelle.fr or 011-33-4-50-45-55-82.

Jeremy Stigter for The New York Times