



<< **SCHWING!** Forget that standard-issue porch swing. If you want to take a ride on the wild side of design, hang on this: Marcel Wanders' Droog Design Swing. It's the ultimate patio accessory for modern-day Marie Antoinettes looking to trick out their own Petit Trianons. Attach the nylon ropes to a tree (or your living room rafters) and take a seat on the polyethylene base with flowers and vines growing hither and thither. www.idchicago.com.

THE SECRET (GARDEN) WEAPON

When a Chicago marketing firm needed landscaping for its newly rehabbed Louis Sullivan building, it had to use a company as innovative as the building's original designer. Enter Chicago Specialty Gardens, who just moved its Evanston company to a new River West location with a full-blown rooftop garden showroom. Landscape designer Julie deLeon, once dubbed the resident "garden stylist," is manager of garden décor. Translation: She's in charge of picking out all the cool furnishings, lighting and plant containers—nevermind that she has serious chops in the horticulture arena. This time around, deLeon and the diverse staff of artists, carpenters and urban garden designers followed the building's interior five-star feng shui design for a soothing meditation garden full of sculptural evergreens, bamboo and a Buddha sculpture that sits over a copper basin with water and pebbles. www.chicagogardens.com.

WHERE THERE'S SMOKE... Normally "sexy" isn't a word associated with outdoor grills—a "clunky necessity" is more like it. But along comes Fuego 01, endearingly called "a campfire for modernists"—with its framed teak and slate countertops, slim lid and hidden swivel caster wheels—to change all that. Beyond its slick aesthetics, this new 'que also has cool technology to go with it, including a hybrid cooking system that uses gas, gas-fired infrared and charcoal. Hot stuff, indeed. Available at Vesta, 1357 W. Concord Place, 773.252.7300.



WALL POPS British exterior designer Susan Bradley's outdoor wallpaper ups the patio design quotient with leafy cutouts in Japonais flower and modular vine shapes. The bespoke "wallpaper" comes in everything from mirror-polished steel to see-through red. Best part? The frame can double as a garden trellis for your inching blooms. www.susanbradley.co.uk

