

**TOP FURNITURE** FOR THE LATEST CHIC TRENDS, GET SOME IDEAS FROM THE LONDON DESIGN FESTIVAL, SAYS **CHLOE SCOTT**

# Word on the block

**F**or those who fervently follow interior fashion, the annual London Design Festival, which is on now, is a rollicking hubbub of creativity. The West End hosts Designersblock 2008, where furniture cognoscenti gather to see the collaboration's quirky innovations. As usual, Brick Lane in the East End teams up with trainer-clad creatives from all over Britain, while Mayfair sees a more established bunch with collections by Zaha Hadid, Future Systems and Tom Kovac. Here are some of the festival's most modish moments.

■ Now until Sep 23, various venues.  
www.londondesignfestival.com

## Fifties flair

New in the locale is Zoe Murphy. Hailing from Margate, Kent, the Tracey Emin of interiors announces her arrival with a 1950s chest of drawers she has

re-veneered and printed with imagery of her hometown. 'My pieces have a nod to the 1950s, an era of Margate's past that excites me. Margate's very neglected, with a 1930s cinema, theme park and seaside crying out to be recognised. I want to show an optimistic view,' says Murphy.

**Showing:** Sep 18-21, Tent London, Truman Brewery, Brick Lane London E1.  
www.tentlondon.co.uk

**I like it:** www.zoemurphy.com



## Star turn

Although Michelle Mason has been on the design scene for a while, her 'Stella' pieces are rousing much excitement in the interiors world. Taking her inspiration from vintage lace, she's made strikingly graphic rugs and table top decorations (pictured right) from wool felt.

**Showing:** Sep 18-21, Stand 23 at 100% Design, Earls Court.  
www.100percentdesign.co.uk

**I like it:** www.michellemason.co.uk



## Clowning around

We love Balloon Furniture, by Niels Schuurman. Resembling a clown's modelling balloons, they're made from papier mâché and polyurethane foam. His inspiration includes Jeff Koons and Michael Thonet.

**Showing:** Sep 18-21, Tent London, Truman Brewery, Brick Lane London E1

**I like it:** www.nielsschuurmans.nl



## On the wall

■ As always, Scottish duo Timorous Beasties impress with their irreverent prints. Bird Branch (pictured right) is from a new wallpaper collection made from sustainable forest material (£80 a panel). Other topical statements include Bloody Hell toile print, a comment on the Iraq war.

**Showing:** Sep 18-21, Designersblock, Selfridges, London W1.  
www.designersblock.org.uk

**I like it:** www.timorousbeasties.com



## Read all about it

Highlighting our lack of space, storage is everywhere at this year's festival. Irreverent and innovative, Nobody & Co shows off La Bibliochoise, a cube chair for storing 5m of books (pictured left) and Piola, a set of geometrical pegs, offering a truly sculptural bookcase.

**Showing:** Sep 18-21, Tent London, Truman Brewery, Brick Lane London E1.

**I like it:** www.nobodyandco.it

## Doggy delight

At SCP's west London festival shindig, the renowned Rimini Blue ceramic collection includes the daschund, made by Aldo Londo for Italian ceramicist Bitossi. Bitossi makes each piece by hand, using geometric design and irregular texture.

**Showing:** Sep 17-23, SCP West, 87-93 Westbourne Grove, London W1.  
Tel: 020 7229 3612.

**I like it:** Available to buy at SCP West, www.scp.co.uk



## Thorsten van Elten

Every year, this thirtysomething whippersnapper champions great new design. This year, in a pop-up shop in Clerkenwell, East London, Thorsten shows Andreas Fabian's Hemding, a 46cm-diameter porcelain statement plate made as a serving plate or fruit bowl.

**Showing:** Sep 17-21, 187-211 St John Street, Clerkenwell, London EC1.

**I like it:** www.andreasfabian.eu and www.thorstenvanelten.com



## Touchy feely

■ Ultra modern company Viaduct actively encourages people to touch its exhibits. Its event, Touch & Reflect, shows off fabric, shape and shine. For example, its Bon Pure White collection, designed by Philippe Starck (rocking chair pictured above), juxtaposes white lacquer with fluorescent engraved perspex.

**Showing:** Now until Sep 24, Viaduct, 1-10 Summers Street, London EC1. Tel: 020 7278 8456. **I like it:** Available to buy at Viaduct, www.viaduct.co.uk

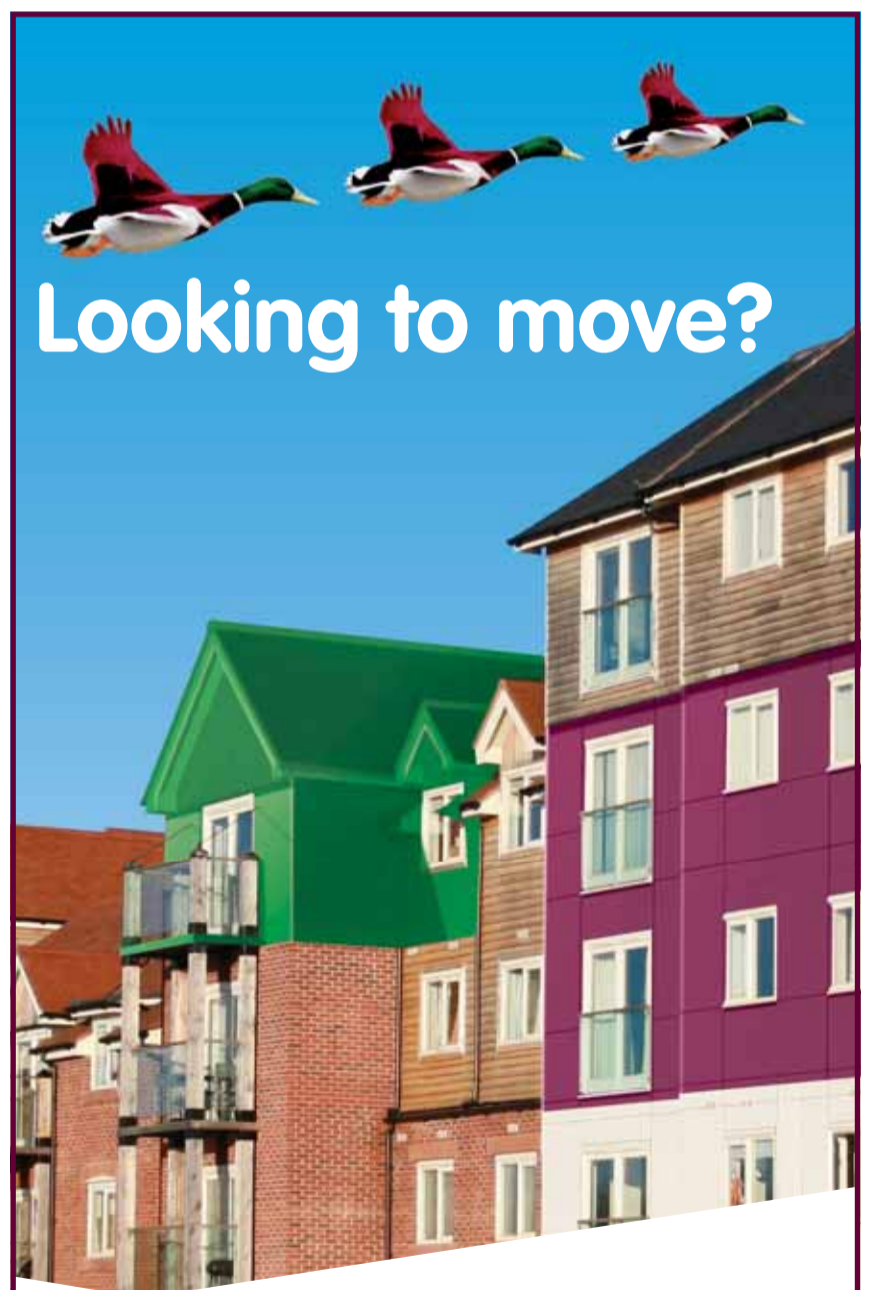


## Lite light

Despite being only 32, Luis Eslava's unconventional talent makes him a designer du jour. Heading Spain's up-and-coming creatives, he curates Spanish Light. One exhibit that shines is Lite Cube by Jonathan Daifuku for Carpyen. Made of white polyethylene, it's seating and lighting in one and works outdoors.

**Showing:** Now until Sep 23, Kettal, London SW6. Tel: 020 7371 5170. www.kettal.com

**I like it:** www.daifukudesigns.com



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