

Homes & Property

EVERY WEDNESDAY
WITH THE Evening Standard

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They are our future

Visit the London Design Festival this week, and discover the work of our very best new designers, reports **Barbara Chandler**



Grant Smith

Ryan Frank designs chairs and tables from discarded office furniture and has a continental manufacturer to put his ideas into mass production (www.ryanfrank.net)



Joseph Harrington's glass shelf (£600) is more like sculpture than a place to put your books (www.josephharrington.co.uk)

FROM huge hanging chairs, to alien digital lamps and recycled fishing nets — new design takes myriad forms at the two main shows of the London Design Festival, which start tomorrow and go on until Sunday. At Earls Court (conveniently opposite the Tube) is the established fixture of 100% Design, with a new Futures section for the avant-garde. Then head east to the new Tent London show (a short walk from Liverpool Street). This fills the vast vaults of the old Truman Brewery, with its tall brick chimney that looms over Brick Lane.

'Chunky shelves that curve and seemingly drip at the edges are more like sculpture than a wall shelf'

Coming over from Paris to occupy the largest stand in 100% Futures is a bubbly contingent from VIA, the French furniture industry's hothouse for new talent. Designers have been marshalled with Gallic zeal by Michel Roset, director of the leading French furniture company Ligne Roset, which sponsored the stand.

Gregory Lacoua has designed an intriguing product to make you smile. Is it a rug or a chair? Both, actually. Made in felt, it cheekily flips down and out on to the floor, and then up again. It is already in production by Ligne Roset. On the same stand, Ammar Eloueini and François Brument have used the sci-fi method of laser sintering to create their eerily beautiful chair of many

holes. A prototype, it shows the design potential of this revolutionary way of making things (www.ligne-roset.co.uk). Also at Futures is Giles Wilson-Copp, who won an award at New Designers for his set of clean-lined dining chairs/stools that magically fit in and out of a flush-fronted sideboard, still leaving lots of storage. And Joseph Harrington is a good glass act, hand-casting chunky shelves that curve and seemingly drip at the edges. They are more like sculpture than a wall shelf.

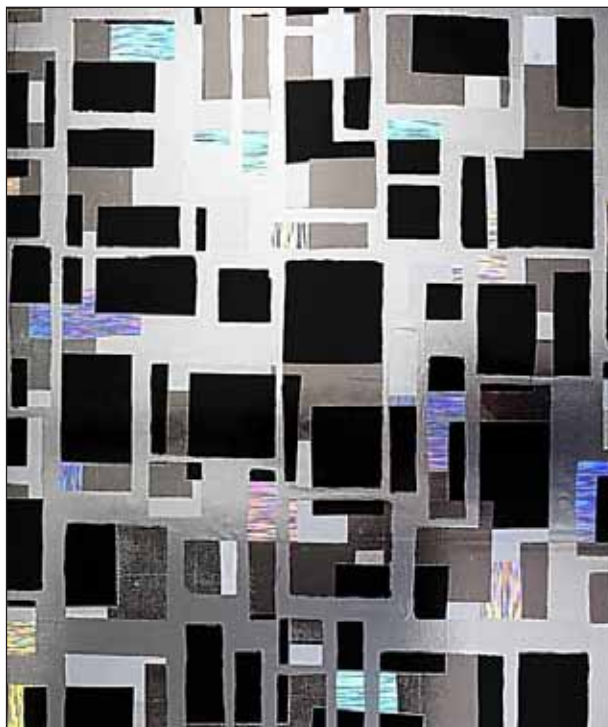
In the main hall at 100%, furniture designer Matthew Hilton is launching his own brand. Hilton was elected as a Royal Designer for Industry in 2004; there are only 200 RDIs at any one time. He is a design veteran who has won a string of major prizes for outfits such as SCP (with shops in Shoreditch and Notting Hill). Wood is what he does best, hip-shape yet well-crafted into dark-toned distinctive tables and cupboards.

IN Luxury Design are swanky Yankies from LA (Jane Blevin and Robert Ford), who do extreme wallcoverings hand-printed on to Mylar polyester film. They say they have a "post punk Hollywood Regency" aesthetic. And Rebecca von Gyer does several rugs and a delightful runner, with arresting contemporary patterns. Maybe carpets are cool again.

Over at Tent London, the Zilla experimental chair by Diplomat (Ashley Hall and Matthew Kavanagh) is a fat assembly of concentric coils on splayed legs, using a new composite made from glass, aluminium and epoxy in a range of colours. "Our chair may look soft, wet and heavy but it's actually lightweight with a hard

Wallcoverings (£112 a roll) by IN Luxury Design (aka Jane Blevin and Robert Ford) are hand-printed on to Mylar polyester film (www.inluxurydesign.com)

Award-winning Matthew Hilton (below), who was elected as a Royal Designer for Industry in 2004, will be launching his own brand at the festival (www.matthewhilton.com)



Lee Hacker



David George



Katja Behre's wallcoverings of butterflies, birds and flowers, start at £21 a metre (www.ellippop.com)



Angharad McLaren's lampshades and mats (from £100) are woven from fishing nets and ropes found washed up on the beach (www.angharadmclaren.co.uk)



Contemporary patterns on carpets and runners (£230) from Rebecca von Gyer (www.gyer.co.uk)



Nick Rawcliffe in his hanging chair, from £595, machine-cut from ply (www.rawstudio.co.uk)

surface," say the designers. Also at Tent, Ryan Frank gives recycling an essential industrial edge. He has designed chairs and tables from discarded office furniture of the type indiscriminately dumped all over Europe. With admirable enterprise, he has found a continental manufacturer to implement his idea on a large scale. This pushes recycling, at present largely craft-based, into mass-production. It had to happen.

On a softer note, RCA graduate Lucy Renshaw obsessively collects old textiles from charity shops and car boot sales. Salvaged lolly sticks are painted, wrapped

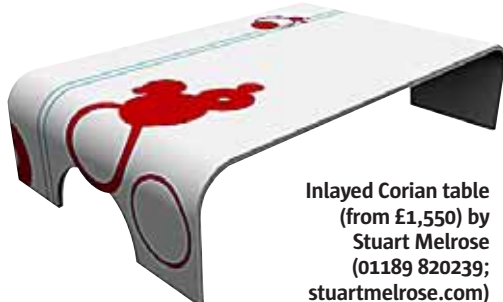
'I love the look of rescued old things. It's as much aesthetic as eco'

in fabrics, or decorated with transfers. "I love the look of rescued old things," she says. "It's as much aesthetic as eco." Showing with Renshaw is Angharad McLaren, who has come from Shetland with poetic mats and lampshades woven from net and ropes washed up on the beach. Lovely, spherical lamp-bases are, in fact, old fishing buoys.

Katja Behre of Elli Popp says she is a "neo romantic" and (remembering her childhood in Northern Germany) covers whimsical wallcoverings with butterflies, birds and flowers. She shares a stand with Splinter Designs, which makes high-quality modern furniture with quirky details. More dab furniture

hands are Shiv Kumar and Claire Hunt of Ku-Designs. Their Reveal coffee table is a single, sinuous sweep of moulded birch ply, faced with a stripy wood veneer.

Touching the heart of all Londoners is the stunning Solarise lampshade by Lauren Moriarty and Pu Tai. Switch on the light, and gradually an image with Wheel, Dome, Gherkin and more takes shape in silhouette, all thanks to "thermochromic" technology.



Inlaid Corian table (from £1,550) by Stuart Melrose (01189 820239; stuartmelrose.com)

ALSO at Tent is Vunderland, an installation by ten designers, mostly from the RCA, with a couple of guests from Austria. Furniture maker Nick Rawcliffe swings by in giant hanging chairs economically machine-cut from basic ply. Katy West does ceramic shelves, and Jenny Beardshall blows glass balloon lights. Check them out at www.vunderland.net.

Intricate sci-fi lamp shapes are by Lionel Dean of FutureFactories. "My designs are the flora and fauna of an alien landscape," he says. Objects are "printed out" direct from virtual computer models using digital manufacturing techniques.

And at the Circa show, Tent London, you will find the British Modernism 1945 - 1975 exhibition.

100% Design, Futures, Detail and Light, is at Earls Court, SW6, from tomorrow to Sunday, which is public day, from 11am to 6pm. Tickets £20 on the door (www.100percentdesign.co.uk)

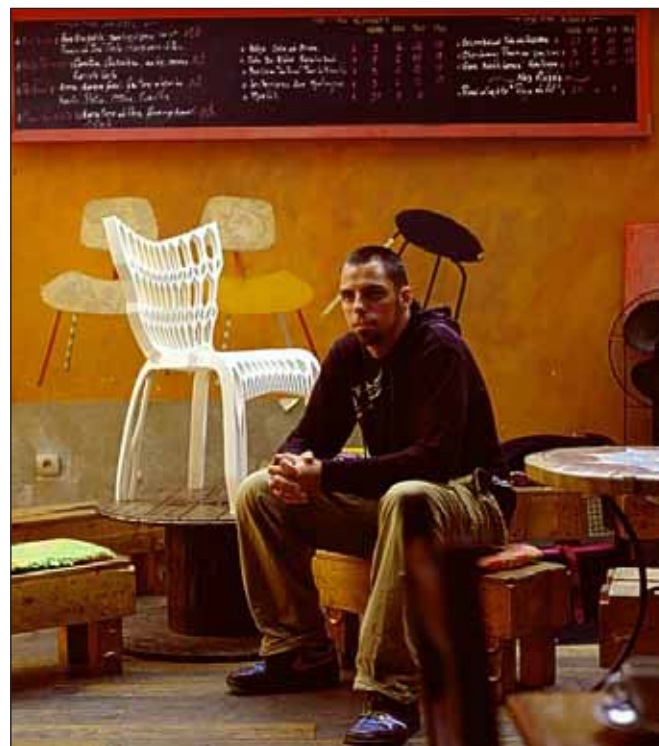
Tent London is also from tomorrow until Sunday (10am to 8pm; Sunday 11am to 5pm) at Truman Brewery, Brick Lane, E1 (entrance on Hanbury Street). Tickets cost £10 on the door; children: under seven, free; under 16, £5 (www.tentlondon.co.uk)



Lucy Renshaw collects textiles from charity shops to make lamps, £110, and cushions, £50 (www.lucyrenshaw.com)



This Solarise lampshade (£49) by Lauren Moriarty and Pu Tai shows the London skyline as it gradually lights up (www.pu-tai.com)



François Brument (left) and Ammar Eloueini used laser sintering to create their eerily beautiful chair of many holes (www.ligne-roset.co.uk)

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