Global Scanning

Product

A selection of highlights from the Milan Furniture Fair 2008

Compiled by Zoë de Pass, GDR Creative Intelligence









Crystal snow (1)

Industrial Design and Visual Communications students from the University of Art and Design Lausanne (ECAL) have collaborated with Swarovski and snowboard manufacturer Nidecker to create a collection of unusual, de luxe snowboards. The students had free reign to customise the boards with inlaid crystals, creating visually appealing pieces that were presented in an exhibition called Crystal Snow.

Source: www.ecal.ch

Posh footie (2)

In response to the lack of design initiative given to football tables, this stylish showpiece is the creation of two specialist companies, GRO design and TIM modelmakers. Called the '11', the piece attempts to give the football table architectural and sculptural consideration, as in a real-world stadium. The bright silver chrome finish of the player figures adds a de luxe quality and is symbolic of footballers' iconic status in sport and society, while the table's lines and monochrome colour palette add a sense of dynamism and drama.

Source: www.eleventhegame.com

Cube 6 (3)

Cube 6 is a diminutive cube made from birch plywood and maple that unfolds into six compact, functional seats. When not in use, the cube measures 350x350x350mm. A three-stool version has also been produced. The concept can serve as dining room furniture for small spaces and urban living.

Design: Naho Matsuno (www.nahomatsuno.com)

Light champagne (4)

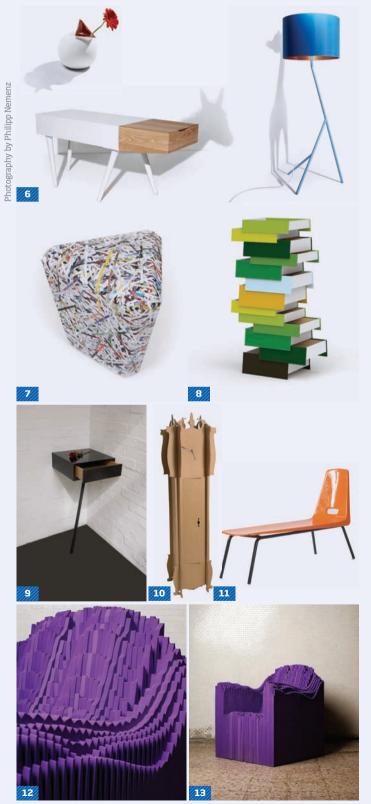
Champagne brand Veuve Clicquot has collaborated for the second time with product designer Karim Rashid to create 500 limited-edition, high-impact lamps containing cooling bottle carriers. The Globalight features a sophisticated internal lighting system that creates a soft pink halo while keeping the champagne at the ideal temperature for two hours. Available online and at Harrods and boutique Aria, London, for £1,800 (\$3,500) a piece.

Design: Karim Rashid (www.karimrashid.com) / Veuve Clicquot (www.e-clicquot.com)

Boomboy (5)

Boomboy, a quirky loudspeaker created by a Royal College of Art student, has been fashioned from hand-carved walnut. A bass duct supplied by audio manufacturers Bowers & Wilkins runs through the wooden body, enabling excellent sound quality. Power wires or earphones can be placed in the character's hand for easy storage. The integration of eco-friendly materials into home electronic and telecommunication products mirrors a larger material trend increasingly being seen in product design.

Design: Vahakn Matossian (www.vahakn.co.uk)



Animal Tales (6)

Animal Tales is a collection of furniture, lamps and accessories themed around the animal kingdom. Inspired by the image of a hungry cuckoo chick, the spherical, copper-glazed Cuco vase features a unique beak-shaped opening in which flowers can be placed. The Jirafa floor lamp is loosely reminiscent of a giraffe and the Muli is a solid oak sideboard that subtly references a mule, with angled legs that give the impression of walking.

Design: ding3000 (www.ding3000.com)

Cappellini Love collection (7)

American industrial designer Stephen Burks has created a range of eco-conscious ware for Italian furniture manufacturer Cappellini. The Cappellini Love collection comprises a series of vases and bowls made from glass fragments and a small group of serving tables made from recycled paper. South African artisans were enlisted to learn specialised papier-mâché techniques so that they can produce the collection on a larger scale in the future.

Design: Stephen Burks (www.readymadeprojects.com)

Established & Sons new collection (8)

British design and manufacturing company Established & Sons has introduced, for the first time, non-British designers to its collection. Israeli-born Shay Alkalay has created a multi-coloured 'floating' set of drawers, Jaime Hayón from Spain has created a set of Tudor dining chairs inspired by the six wives of Henry VIII, while Dutch Maarten Baas has fashioned the Chankley Bore, a limited-edition range of humorous sculptural furniture.

Source: Established & Sons (www.establishedandsons.com)

Twist on the classics (9,10 & 11)

Farm, a collective of British designers, has produced a range of witty design objects by taking inspiration from popular British culture. The collection includes a one-legged table called Jock Corner and a clock called Grandfather C, which is constructed completely out of cardboard and based on the classic grandfather clock. The School Chaise is an adaptation of the traditional orange school chair, with an elongated seat that gives it a new lounging function.

Design: Farm Design (www.farmdesigns.co.uk)

Sound/Chair (12 & 13)

The Sound/Chair's 3D form is a physical representation of sound waves. The chair accurately conveys a sound wave as seen on a 3D graph of volume, while the vivid purple colour brings the concept to life. This technique is characteristic of the designer, who is able to sculpt the concept of sound as if it were a material, creating unique, sensory forms and products.

Design: Matthew Plummer-Fernandez (www.plummerfernandez.com)