THE OWN

London's living guide
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## JONATHAN ROTHENBERG

Jonathan Rothenberg started out by doing two furniture courses, one 'very hands-on' at the London College of Furniture, the other 'very conceptual' at Middlesex University. When he left college in 1992, he realised that settling up independently was the best way to get his own designs made. He's currently very busy with an established client list. 'It was easier when I started,' he says, 'and is becoming harder and harder now that there's more competition.'

Rothenberg likes working in hard woods, as well as plywoods and steel, and leans towards modern designs. 'I tend to find clients who are looking for clever solutions to their storage problems and an economic use of materials. Clients are normally professionals with an interest in design who can't find the right pieces in Heal's or The Conran Shop.' Typical prices oak dining table £3,000; kitchen in sycamore £7,500; mahogany and beech cupboard £1,900; side tables £400-£500. Jonathan Rothenberg Design (0181 986 7612).



## **MICHAEL ANASTASSIADES**

Michael Anastassiades is building a high profile with work recently in the ICA's exhibition 'Stealing Beauty'. Collaborations with his former RCA tutors Anthony Dunne and Fiona Raby gave him a reputation for quirkiness. In one piece, a branch protruding from a wooden box is intermittently shaken by the mechanism within, its rustling providing an aural alternative to the visual and aromatic thrill of a vase of flowers. Other pieces include message cups (beakers that you talk into to leave a message for someone else who lives in the house) and a dining table with a concave mirror in its centre, designed to be paired with a pendant light so that light is reflected around the room. Anastassiades studied industrial design and graduated during the recession in 1993. Unable to find a job, he set up by himself a year later. Typical prices dining table £3,000; mirror chairs £600; mirror table £550; table light £450. Michael Anastassiades (0171 928 7527).