

January/February 1999

THE INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN

# FRAME



## Airport Design

Boarding for Hong Kong, Kuala Lumpur, Milan and Oslo

**Casson Mann**  
Spatial Communicators

## Sensible, Solid, Swiss

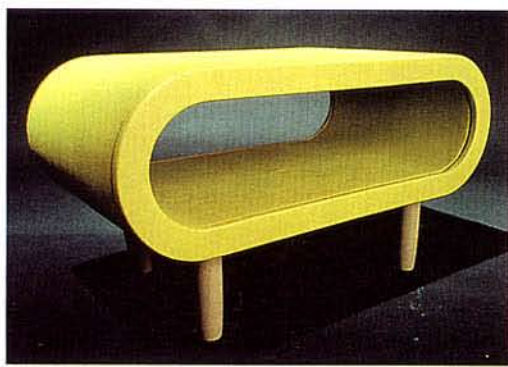
Häberli & Marchand, N2, Peter Zumthor

Probably no city in the world (no, not even Milan) has as much appeal for young designers as London. They arrive in droves from all over England and around the world, from Tynemouth to Thailand. The design scene in England's capital city is flourishing as never before. This is expressed not only in a deluge of new restaurants, bars, shops and, in the near future, hotels marked by a high level of design, but also in a tidal wave of furniture and lamps that are often so 'in' that they're 'out' almost as soon as a concept is developed. Design scouts arriving in London for the September fair, 100% Design, were ready to roll. Ranks of neophytes and veterans stood side by side. The search was on for that one heretofore unnoticed talent with the capacity to take an original morphological language and shape it into something functional and saleable. This year's crop of presenters included a noticeably greater number of non-English designers, all emphatically trying to elbow their way into the spotlight. Young Dutch, Swedish and Danish designers in particular sought contact with one another and introduced themselves to the public in groups. All things considered, however, it's British talent that we chose to feature here. After all, 100% Design is primarily a platform for Britons. We found the 1998 English

avant-garde fascinated by unusual materials and rounded, full-bodied shapes. Here and there we spotted an amused wink at function. Examples are Richard Dewhurst's Concrete Easy Chair, made of concrete and leather, and Matt Kavanagh's The Story of Ooh! - a table of polyurethane foam wrapped in leather. In designing Moby, Ashley Hall opted for 'plastic' in a material sense as well as in the highly artificial blob-like form, while Delicatessen's Rocking Chair catapults the concept of the simple rocking chair into the next century. Functional jests appear in the Mirror Chair, designed by Michael Anastassiades (a native of Cyprus), and Stacking Tables, presented by the AJA design collective. What can we learn from a contemporary design fair? To begin with, we noted a marked increase in computer-controlled designs. The time-honoured tradition of developing drawings into scale models and of putting together handmade prototypes seems to be gradually fading into the background. In addition, England remains a breeding ground for lightweight design, figuratively speaking: many designs will never find a place on the market, and perhaps half will be nothing but memories in a day or two. And finally: 'plump' is back in town.



1



2



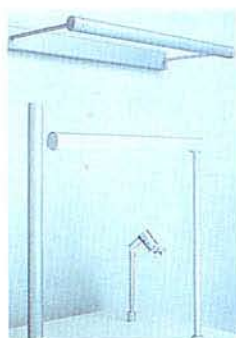
3



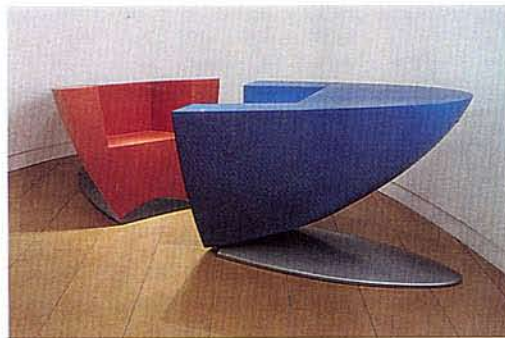
4



5



6

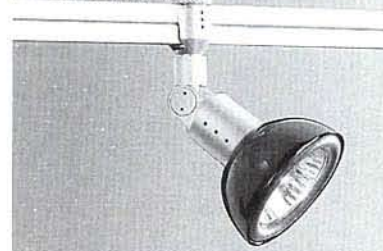


7

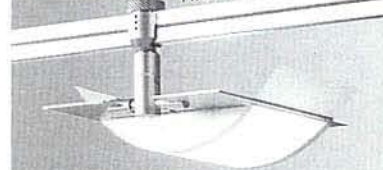
- 1 LC1. Design: Yellow Diva
- 2 The Story of Ooh! Table in RIM moulded polyurethane-foam core, wrapped inside and out in green or tan leather, with the option of castor wheels or painted wooden legs. Design: Matt Kavanagh
- 3 Mirror Chair in English oak and mirror glass. Design: Michael Anastassiades
- 4 Stacking Tables, designed by AJA. These tables feature a solid oak top and stainless steel legs of diminishing sizes
- 5 Basic floor light, for use in a number of positions: uplighting, downlighting or general ambience. Design: Tom Kirk
- 6 A-Line, manufactured by Aktiva. An 240V, ultra-slim (25 mm diameter), fluorescent light fitting for panel, desk and display-case application, with remote or integral electronic ballast
- 7 Rocking Chair. Design: Delicatessen

„READY FOR TAKE OFF  
TRAC-SYSTEM

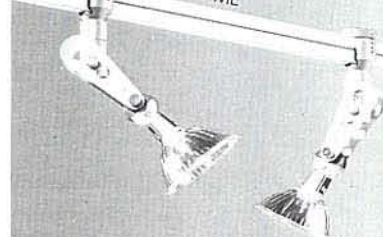
GATE B FIVE



NIGHT FLIGHT



FOLLOW ME



SPIN



OLIGO NETHERLANDS:  
ELEKTRO ENGROS  
BEEKLAAN 330-342  
NL-2562 AW DEN HAAG  
TEL.: 070/345 14 24  
FAX: 070/361 15 433



OLIGO LICHTTECHNIK GMBH  
MEYSSTRASSE 22-24  
D-53773 HENNEF  
GERMANY  
TEL.: ++2242/8702-0  
FAX: ++2242/8702-88

E-MAIL: OLIGO@T-ONLINE.DE  
INTERNET: HTTP://WWW.OLIGO.DE

Free Info? Use Infocard at Inside back cover