

House

AUTUMN/WINTER 05/06

ARCHITECTURE | DESIGN | GARDEN | ADVICE

THE PREMIER MAGAZINE FOR ARCHITECT-DESIGNED HOUSES



SHOULD I STAY
OR SHOULD I GO?

THE BEST
ARCHITECTURAL
ADVICE ON
EXTENSIONS



OVER
80
PAGES

OF
STUNNING
HOUSES
AND
INSPIRATIONAL
EXTENSIONS

URBAN GARDENS

DIARMUID GAVIN
ON HIS NEW
CITY GARDEN
AT HANOVER
QUAY



€4.50 £3.00



RIAI REPRESENTING IRISH ARCHITECTS

ICONS OF IRISH DESIGN

JENNIFER GOFF

In recent times, a group of innovative and enterprising Irish furniture designers has burst onto the Irish and international scene. They represent a highly representative cross section of Ireland's contemporary design community and, together, they have formed the Irish Furniture Designers Network (IFDN). Jennifer Goff argues that these designers are not only breaking down boundaries but may be in the process of creating the icons of tomorrow – those classic, modern pieces of furniture.



The international market is responding well to Irish design. The network is eager to raise the profile of Irish designers at home and abroad. Confidence is growing, seen in the unique pieces which the Irish have contributed at the 100% Design exhibition in London, the Interieur Biennale in Italy, and Maison et Objets in Paris. Their professional approach has also been clearly illustrated at domestic shows such as Showcase, Plan Expo, and the RDS Interiors show earlier this year in Ireland. The Irish Furniture Designer Network is literally creating iconic pieces on home grown turf. Of the designers included, virtually all believe in the primary goal of design – to make people's lives better. Each designer has responded in their own individual way to the technical, functional and cultural requirements of the pieces which they have created. These pieces transcend their appropriate form, structure and manufacture.

When asked about what they felt was their 'iconic' piece – their responses were refreshing, humble and most of all remarkably varied. Several themes did however appear – the potential of new materials, reverence for old materials used in new innovative ways, the need for simplification, and the psychological aspects of their designs, and the way it creates an emotive response.

Newcomer to the IFDN, and self taught designer Jason Egan has quite a biomorphic approach to design. His first tentative foray entitled Intimate Lounge is remarkably strong and assured in style. Made from expanded polyurethane foam, similar to that used in sculpture, this particular media permits almost total control over the form. His kinaesthetic approach creates a visually-inviting piece, which incites interaction through its sensual form. It is also quite architectonic and was "inspired as much by its (perceived) absence as anything else". Egan describes it as "a form that was somewhere, functionally speaking, between architecture, furniture and sculpture". It is one of three; a smaller form is currently in prototype production. Its bold, expressive qualities will hopefully continue to characterise his fresh vision of design.



Top: Gordon Byrne
Coat Clip - Bent steel rod with wall
mountings.

Bottom: Jason Egan
Intimate Lounge - Expanded polyurethane
foam