

A photograph of a modern wooden dining set. The table is made of light-colored wood with a horizontal grain pattern. On the table, there is a cork trivet holding a glass carafe and four glasses. The chairs are also made of the same wood and have a simple, angular design. The text "DAVIN LARKIN" is overlaid on the image in a white, sans-serif font, with green lines highlighting the letters 'A' and 'L'.

DAVIN LARKIN

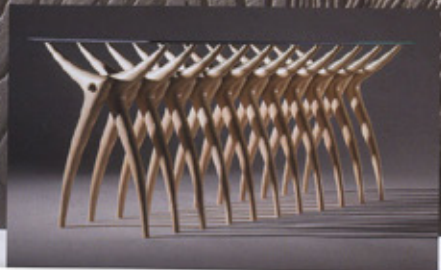
**Press Coverage**

[www.davinlarkin.com](http://www.davinlarkin.com)



# Letterfrack showcase

**Eleanor Flegg** recalls the foundation of the furniture college in this their 25th year, as examples of current thinking in design from both staff and alumni goes on display at Farmleigh Gallery, Dublin in November



As Connemara's redoubtable furniture college, GMIT Letterfrack, celebrates its twenty-fifth anniversary, the existence of a furniture training college in a part of Ireland with neither trees nor industrial tradition deserves a little explanation. Ironically, its establishment was driven not by ambitions for the craft of furniture-making but as part of a plan to stem the flow of emigration from the West of Ireland. Like many Irish educational initiatives, the story begins with a derelict building (See Shane O'Toole's 'Redemption in Letterfrack' *Irish Arts Review*, Autumn, 2002, p.88). The rural development company, Connemara West, had purchased the former Industrial School in 1981 and were wondering what to do with it. Its director at the time, Kieran O'Donoghue, remembered: 'The building was empty, absolutely empty, there were birds flying in and out the top windows, and the idea of running a training programme for young people developed. Two main ideas came floating out of the maelstrom – one was woodturning and the other was slipcast pottery – these were considered to be good training skills to give to young people.'

Eventually, it was decided to drop slipcast pottery and to broaden the idea of woodturning into woodcraft, or furniture-making, and so the first two-year course began in 1982. However, the model vaunted by the Industrial Training Authority, AnCO, focused on preparing people for industry by giving them the skills that the employer needed. O'Donoghue, feeling that this approach was both restrictive and ineffective, wanted to look at broader educational models in which the students were equipped with the skills to move through the industry. The programme was revised with the help of design-consultant Mary Mullin, formerly of the Kilkenny Design Workshops, who introduced a number

of British educators to the project, including Chris Simpson of Ryecotewood College and Alan Tilbury of the RCA, who brought with them skills in furniture practice and education that were not then available in Ireland. The sheer eccentricity of running a furniture college amid the treeless beauty of the Connemara landscape, in an environment free from institutional expectations, was an attraction to visiting lecturers whose input became an important part of the development of the college.

But, although Letterfrack was undoubtedly influenced by British furniture education, it evolved in tandem with the wider system of Irish third-level accreditation. Until 1985, the college offered AnCO Certificates in cabinetmaking, but Jim O'Connor of the RTC, working with O'Donoghue, evolved the course into a two-year National Certificate in Fine Woodworking and Design and Letterfrack went into partnership with RTC Galway in 1986/7. When the RTC, upgraded to GMIT, became a degree-awarding body, Letterfrack launched a fully-fledged degree programme.

Now offering degrees in Furniture Design, Manufacture, Furniture and Wood Technology, and Design and Technology Education, Letterfrack's alumni are ubiquitous within contemporary Irish furniture and its anniversary exhibition reflects the college's tradition of original thinking, both in education and design. It includes the work of John Lee, maker of the 2011 Presidential chair, who is developing the use of computer technology in realizing his designs (Figs 1&2). Lee's work has been purchased by the National Museum of Ireland, while the Esker Tallboy by Tim and Seán Dunleavy (grad. 2005) of Dunleavy Bespoke was acquired by the Ulster Museum in 2011. Martin Gallagher, (grad. 2006) also works within the fine furniture tradition, his *Ardú* series of tables in maple and glass combining the functionality of furniture with the appearance of sculpture (Fig 4). Others have taken a path in which the design of furniture is emphasized over the craft of making it. Jens Kosak (grad. 2011) works as a furniture and lighting designer and Davin Larkin (grad. 2002) runs the company Kooyong Design as well as teaching in GMIT Letterfrack (Figs 3&6). Larkin feels that his role as a designer is crucial to his teaching practice: 'I think it is extremely important for lecturers to still work in their trade to both improve their own skills but also show their students the love they have for what they teach.' Now lecturing in Griffith College, Tricia Harris (grad. 2005) is researching augmented reality technology which allows the designer to see a full-size virtual representation of their CAD model superimposed on a real room like the ghost of furniture yet to come. By including work at this explorative level, the exhibition aims to go beyond the simple concept of success stories and spectacular finished pieces to explore the role of furniture-making in education and how this relates to innovation.

Acknowledgements: Anthony Clare, Kieran O'Donoghue, and Mary Mullin. 25 Years of Excellence and Innovation: Farmleigh Gallery, Dublin. 1 November – 29 December 2012.

Eleanor Flegg is a writer and craft historian living in Dublin.

162 JOHN LEE  
CORE 2012 ash  
L 100x45  
H 40cm  
Photo: Roland  
Paschhoff

3 JENS KOSAK  
SPOT LAMP 2010  
Medium LSW4002  
H 40cm

4 MARTIN  
GALLAGHER  
ARDO 2012  
maple, glass and  
brass L 150x45  
H 40cm  
Photo: Roland  
Paschhoff

5 TIM & SEÁN  
DUNLEAVY  
TABLE 2012 oak  
with 66 finish  
L 230x95  
H 77cm  
Photo: Michael  
Donnellan

6 DAVIN LARKIN  
ALPINE  
LOUNGER 2012  
walnut and linen  
L 200x70  
H 75cm



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## Introduction

Welcome to "Light Fantastic" a showcase event of 18 Irish lighting designers that I have brought together for this inaugural lighting event. I am proud to introduce you to these inspirational Irish designers who are pushing the boundaries of materials such as glass, resin, wood, metal, velcro and plastics. They are collectively an excellent example of enterprising creative innovators and their creatively engineered work will light up your world.



**Rosemary Ryan**  
Business Development Manager



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## Kooyong Design

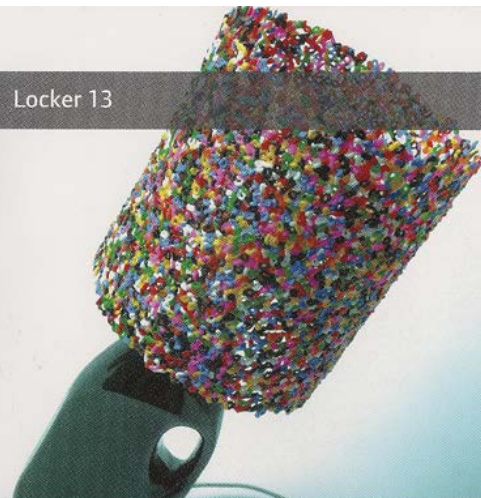


Established in 2009 by Davin Larkin, Kooyong Design is a young Irish product design firm that specialises in furniture, interiors and homewares – all manufactured in Ireland – that will continue to add to your home throughout the years.

T: 01 443 3133 (Davin Larkin)  
E: davin@kooyongdesign.ie  
www.kooyongdesign.ie



## Locker 13

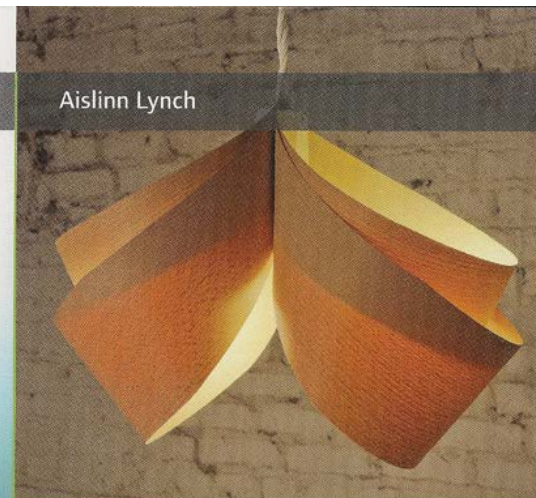


Locker 13 is the collaboration of designers Karl Medcalf and Shane Wilson. Their goal is to design original, unique and beautiful furniture, both commissioned pieces and small batches of selected original designs.

T: 087 692 5365 (Shane Wilson/Karl Medcalf)  
E: studio@locker13.ie  
www.locker13.ie



## Aislinn Lynch



Aislinn Lynch, a recent graduate, explores the use of Veneer, a material that allows her to be hands-on in the making of her products. Through this exploration, she forms organic, elegant lights that create a natural warmth within a space.

T: 086 852 9283  
E: aislinnemma@aol.com  
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At designist we believe good design should be **beautiful, useful and affordable** and we think we know how to achieve this.

This exhibition is a small glimpse of the level of design talent we have already working in Ireland. By promoting Irish designed products we are supporting and nurturing this talent in the hope that we can generate an appetite for it. We can also find out what you think.

If we can prove demand, then we can persuade Irish manufacturers to invest in the talent that is already here and produce large **quantities**, making Irish products more affordable.

By including designer, manufacturer, retailer and consumer in the process, we can **sustain** a living for everyone, and provide people with beautiful, useful, affordable things.





# Kooyong Design

Davin Larkin's determination has created his company, Kooyong design, which produces sleek, functional Irish furniture.

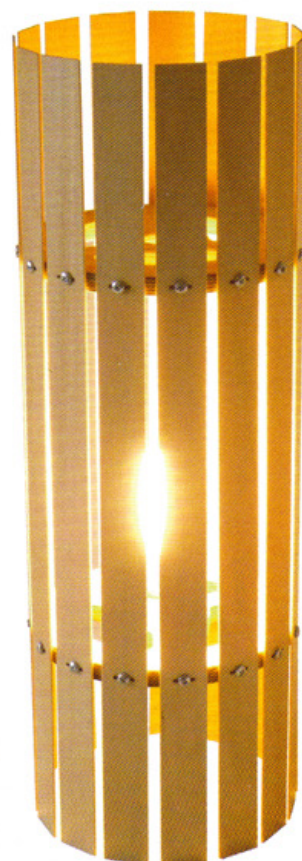
In 2000 Davin Larkin began studying furniture design and manufacture at furniture college in Letterfrack. After completing this highly acclaimed course, he decided to spend a further four years at the Natural College of Art and Design in Dublin, concentrating in designing furniture. During this time, he spent a semester studying in Denmark, where he added to his vast array of skills and his time in there greatly influenced how he approached his designs.

Before opening his own business, Davin worked in OPW furniture division during his summer holidays and he later went to work in O'Driscoll Furniture, a leading

Irish firm for furniture. This was not a permanent move for him, for in late 2007 he left his job to go traveling for fourteen months, then in December 2008 he decided to come back to Ireland.

Upon his return, Davin realised that because of the declining economy, there was not much hope to find a design job, so he took a gamble, starting his own business in 2009. His goal was and still is, fairly simple: to show the hidden talent of Irish designers.

At present Davin is the main designer but his ambition is to bring more designers on, once his pieces started to garner more interest. Kooyong Design released their first range of products in 2009 to great acclaim. Since then there has been huge interest in his designs from the press, buyers abroad and in Ireland. In May 2010 his 'Stubborn' dining table and chairs were showcased at the Interior Design and Art Fair, garnering a huge amount of plaudits. Davin was influenced by Japanese and Scandinavian designs, causing him to produce beautifully polished oak pieces that will always be a classic design. Davin is working on more products, in his studio in Tallaght Art Centre, which will be unveiled later this year and has just completed a Pop Up Shop at the RHA Gallery. His contemporary pieces will certainly have a lasting impact on your home.



SPRAY.

[www.kooyongdesign.ie](http://www.kooyongdesign.ie)  
[www.davinlarkin.com](http://www.davinlarkin.com)

STUBBORN DINING TABLE.





# IMAGE INTERIORS

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## IMAGE INTERIORS PICKS OF THE FAIR

**FRENCH FANCY** For that special investment piece, check out this funky limited edition Pumpkin chair, €1,500 from **Ligne Roset**, designed to celebrate the company's 150th anniversary. It was originally designed in 1971 by French luminary Pierre Paulin to add a splash of comfort and colour to the private apartments of French President Georges Pompidou in the Elysée Palace, Paris. In 2008 Ligne Roset decided to put it back into production, with only 300 made in two colourways of red and blue. To get your hands on one of these beauties head to Arnotts. [www.ligne-roset.com](http://www.ligne-roset.com); 01 805 0400; [www.buy4now.ie/arnotts](http://www.buy4now.ie/arnotts)



**NEW KID ON THE BLOCK** Furniture designer Davin Larkin's spacious studio, **Kooyong Design**, in Tallaght Arts Centre showcases the work of designers Sadhbh Fitzgibbon, Kate Cronin and Jenny Walsh as well as his own creations, including these funky block storage modules. Designed to be fun and multi-functional, the blocks can be used as storage units, table legs, stools and side tables. Influenced by Japanese and Scandinavian designs, Larkin's collection in beautifully polished oak features simple, functional pieces, with the aim of putting Ireland firmly on the international design map. 01 443 3133; [www.kooyongdesign.com](http://www.kooyongdesign.com)



**STOP THE PIGEON** Launched in 2008 by designer Peter McCann and his sister Sarah, online store **No Fixed Abode** sells a great range of homewares, furniture, accessories and gift ideas, including the award-winning TIE light by Peter McCann for Made\* at Innermost. We love this humorous pigeon light, €65, available in orange, pink, white and yellow. [www.nofixedabode.ie](http://www.nofixedabode.ie)

**WHEREVER I LAY MY HAT** This funky coat stand will add a splash of colour and brio to your hallway. Expect pieces such as this one and much more from husband and wife team Emily Maher and Declan Moloney, interior design partnership and owners of cool interiors store **Lost Weekend** in Wexford. Dublin fans of Lost Weekend will soon be able to enjoy the designs of this fab duo when they open their second store in Blackrock later this summer. 053 918 0090; [www.lostweekend.ie](http://www.lostweekend.ie)

**IN THE DETAIL** Design icon Sir Terence Conran's renowned interiors emporium **The Conran Shop** came to Arnotts last year much to our delight. Full of statement pieces, design classics and quirky accessories, such as this funky Mozia wall clock, €325, it's a truly inspirational destination. 01 805 0400; [www.buy4now.ie](http://www.buy4now.ie)

**PARISIAN CHIC** Be inspired by the beautiful and colourful selection of accessories from **Roche Bobois**. One of our favourites, this French design house has innovative pieces ranging from sculptural sofas to delicate glassware and rustic country classic to edgy and futuristic styles. 01 653 1650; [www.roche-bobois.com](http://www.roche-bobois.com)

**HOT SEAT** For upbeat urban style, **BoConcept** has it covered with its sleek, paired back contemporary look. From large pieces to colourful accessories, it has something for every room. Also available in black and white, these useful orange acrylic chairs bring a splash of vibrant colour to any space. Cavona chairs, €109 each. 01 293 2009; [www.boconcept.ie](http://www.boconcept.ie)

**COLOUR EXPLOSION** In need of a colour fix? We got ours via an eye-popping shade of pink (40RR 11/430), part of a vibrant range from **Dulux**. [www.dulux.ie](http://www.dulux.ie)

Thank you for visiting our stand, we hope you enjoy the fair!  
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INSIDER PROFILE

## PAGET SCOTT-McCARTHY, textile designer

For textile designer Paget Scott-McCarthy, from Schull, Co Cork, the possibilities of fabric are manifold. "The manipulation of fabric and printing on fabric is something that's never really shown to you – if you want to find it, you have to go looking for it yourself. I found that strand and just latched on to it."

A portfolio course after school led to textile design in NCAD, where in her fourth year, she was a finalist in the Nokia Young Designer competition. The broad course, covering print, weave and embroidery, gave her a feel for all the different options. "I ended up doing fashion and interiors, which allowed me to really branch out."

An erasmus year in Paris during college was inspirational, and on finishing college, Paget spent six months working for Acorn Conceptual Textiles in Nottingham, designing prints for a range of clients from Marks & Spencer to Stella McCartney. The following year working for Irish-based designer Liz Nilsson and an internship at McQueen menswear in London provided her with plenty of variety.

While in London, Paget and a friend began to discuss the idea of doing textile workshops and gave their first one in Dublin last July. "We thought we would just do it for the summer but they went so well, we're still doing them." The weekend courses teach print, embroidery and sewing skills aimed at enabling people to start making things again. "It's about being able to design beautiful things for yourself. It does take practice but it's fun and people enjoy doing it, it's just about knowing a few basic skills and believing in yourself and it'll pay off."

In between teaching, she's still designing her own collections. "I'd miss it too much to stop but I really enjoy teaching as I love working with people." Inspired by children's illustrations from when she was younger, there is a playful, whimsical feel to her work, as she uses everyday objects in innovative ways and likes patterns to be "a bit surprising". On finding some old toy cars at home, she copied their shape into a pattern. "They were just so pretty, I wanted to give them a second life." Many of her patterns feature shapes from the natural world: hens, dragonflies and waterlilies. "Their forms lend themselves so much to repeat patterns, it's hard to resist."

Also working as a guest lecturer in embroidery at the Grafton Academy and exhibiting her own design work, for Paget, it's all in the mix. "I guess with every career, you realise it's not necessarily going to be straight down the middle, it's more of a winding road." Above all, it's about enjoying the process. "It's great to show women how these traditional embroidery skills can be made contemporary so easily, and that it's really fun. All of us sitting around this big table just stitching and gossiping, it's lovely!"

[www.pagetscottmccarthy.com](http://www.pagetscottmccarthy.com); for more information on Paget's textile workshops, [www.textileworkshopdublin.com](http://www.textileworkshopdublin.com)



## DAVIN LARKIN, furniture design

When furniture designer Davin Larkin returned to Dublin in December 2008 after over a year travelling around the world, a lot had changed. "It was hard to come back, it was a completely different country." With the economy flagging and employment prospects grim, he decided to set up his own design studio, Kooyong Design.

"There wasn't much hope of getting a job and there still isn't and this was something I'd always wanted to do."

The spacious studio in Tallaght Arts Centre showcases his own work, along with other young designers, Kate Cronin and Sadhbh Fitzgibbon. "I think we all need to bounce off one another to help each other out," says Davin. With influences from Scandinavia and Japan, his collection in beautifully polished oak features simple, well-designed and functional pieces, with the aim of putting Ireland on the international design map.

"People value other Irish entities like art or music, so if there was a market for Irish design abroad it would be hugely beneficial. I think we need to recognise design as a craft in itself." Although a fan of Ikea, Davin feels there needs to be a balance between temporary and long-lasting. "We're living in a very throw-away society – things are only used for a few weeks or a few years. I think we need to get back to a strong design aesthetic, where something will last for a lifetime."

[www.kooyongdesign.com](http://www.kooyongdesign.com)





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## FRONTROOM



### BEING... Davin Larkin

A former finalist in the House & Home Student Design Awards 2006, furniture and industrial designer Davin Larkin has recently established Kooyong Design, a product design firm. Located in Tallaght's new arts centre Rua Red, the studio aims to support Irish designers to market their products to the public.

**Describe your style in three words** Sleek, functional, statement.

**What has been your favourite project to work on and why?** Designing my own range of furniture has definitely been my favourite project, enabling me

to be both client and designer. Working without a brief encourages me to work to my strengths and explore the limits of my capabilities to create a design that I can stand back from and say wow, that looks great.

**What would you save if your house was burning down?** My passport. I know it can be replaced but I love travelling and have travelled to a lot of places and collected a lot of visa stamps making my passport a very sentimental item to me. Every time I open it, and see each stamp I remember certain highlights of my travels. Also, if my house had just burned down I might want to get away and travel somewhere new, it's the one thing that helps me relax and inspires me as a designer, going to new places, seeing new things and switching off.

**What's next for you?** Success, hopefully! Design is a demanding business and having invested a lot of time and work into getting where I am today I feel I am at the beginning of an exciting journey with Kooyong Design. I believe Ireland has a wealth of un-tapped design talent and I would love to build a studio that could help us sell our products and designs to the public both here and abroad. A designer working for someone else will never work to their full ability in my opinion but once you give them the opportunity to design for themselves they can really push the boundaries and strive to reach their design potential. Kooyong Design, Tel: 01 443 3133. Web: [www.kooyongdesign.com](http://www.kooyongdesign.com)



## Four books for inspiration



**Wallpaper: The Ultimate Guide, Charlotte Abrahams, Quodrilite**  
**What they say:** The book traces the history of wallpaper and demonstrates how it can be used in a variety of ways. It features over 250 different wallpapers overall with information on where to purchase.

**What we say:** A swift education in various styles of wallpaper gives way to stunning photography of wallpaper in-situ. This is the book to reassure you that wallpaper should be embraced as an art form.



**XS Extreme: Big Ideas, Small Buildings, Piyil Richardson, Thames & Hudson**  
**What they say:** This book examines how the term 'extreme' is used to refer to different aspects of buildings that blur the boundaries between art and architecture.  
**What we say:** In this highly visual book, the beautifully shot images are sometimes more whimsical than realistic but they succeed in providing an insight into new design and highlighting how experimental structures can be functional as well as groundbreaking.



**Laura Ashley, Martin Wood, Frances Lincoln Limited**  
**What they say:** Drawn from first-hand accounts of Laura Ashley's family, friends and colleagues, this is the story of a remarkable woman, an extraordinary partnership, and the creation of a highly successful and influential brand.  
**What we say:** This book allows the reader to relive the life of the woman behind the iconic brand through personal accounts and photographs. A sneak peek into how she lived and breathed the modern design phenomenon.



**The Genius of Design, Penny Spörke, Quodrilite Publishing**  
**What they say:** Champions not just the 'design heroes' of the last 200 years but also the democratic forces of machine production and mass consumption and puts humans back at the heart of the debate about what makes good and bad design.  
**What we say:** This book informs the reader about the designs that we often take for granted. The illustrations and images are accompanied by interesting anecdotes about some of the most iconic designers of the past and present.





# START-UP FOR YOUNG DESIGNERS

Arthur Duff and Greg Tisdall are giving young Irish furniture designers a platform to show and sell their work

**M**EETING ARTHUR DUFF on a bright April evening would put the spring in anyone's step. He has just come from looking at *Meetings with Remarkable Trees*, the exhibition of Thomas Pakenham's photographs at the Molesworth Gallery in Dublin, and watched a vibrant protest outside the Dáil, and says both cleared his mind of the prevailing gloom and doom. "All that was missing was a good salsa band outside the Dáil – it would have boosted the public spirit," he says.

Duff and Greg Tisdall have been to the fore of Irish furniture design for the past 20 years and their latest, recession-defying enterprise hopes to highlight the work of resident designers and associates of The Malthouse in Dublin's North Circular Road.

They have reconfigured their studios, showroom and workshop to provide mentored start-up space for young designers. At the moment there are 10 housed in the centre and they have ambitious plans to increase the number fourfold in the next two years.

"All too often designers complain that there is no work or demand for their services. What our new exhibition will show is that there is a wealth of creative young designers who have not given up trying to make a living just because the economy has given up on them. In the space of two months, the designers have come up with more than 20 products for less than €200 (some under €80).

"We're hoping the centre will become a focus for young creative talent," says Duff. "Eventually, we also want to provide a dedicated space for young fashion designers."

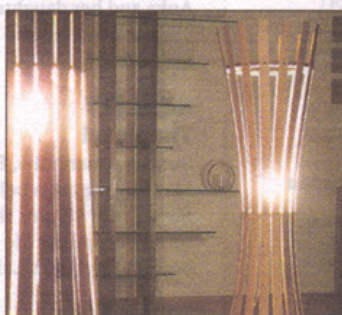
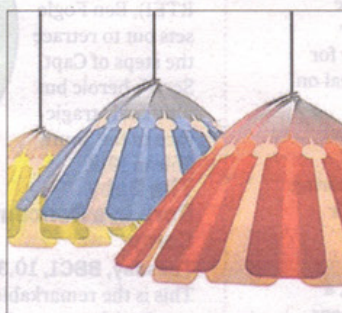
The *Bang For Bucks* exhibition opens next Thursday, April 20th at Duff-Tisdall Architecture, at The Malthouse, 537 North Circular Road, Dublin 1, tel: 01-8558070.

See [themalthousedesigncentre.com](http://themalthousedesigncentre.com).

Meanwhile don't forget to look into the Pop Up Shop in the Royal Hibernian Academy in Ely Place, Dublin 2 where every two weeks, new creative work goes on display.

We were hugely impressed by the handsome furniture designed by David Larkin of Kooyong Design, and, as it happens, he hopes to show his work in the Malthouse, too. Very snazzy.

Patsey Murphy



**FROM TOP** Dining table, bench and stools by Davin Larkin, [Kooyongdesign.ie](http://Kooyongdesign.ie). Larkin also designed the Pinch + Splay lamps above (€180)

● Fabric design by Jennifer Slattery, a textile designer based at The Malthouse

● Palm, a self-assembly light shade, (€49.95), designed by Kate Cronin of [clickity.ie](http://clickity.ie)



# Focus on new designers

THE recent Furniture & Home Accessories Fair 2010 at the RDS showcased New Design Ireland, an area devoted to the work of up and coming designers, including Custom Quilting, Divito Studios, Don and Eamonn O'Sullivan, Dunleavy Bespoke, James Carroll Furniture, Jenny Walsh Design, Faustin and Kooyong Design.

Here's a taste of some of their new products which will be available this year:

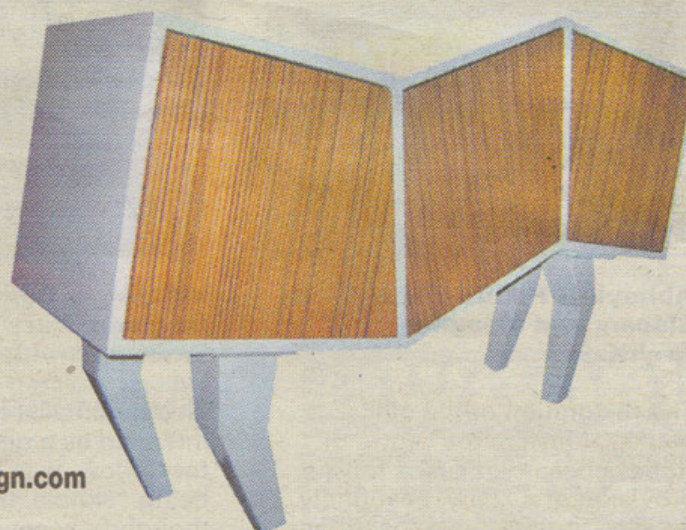


**David Larkin's Stubborn table, bench and stool set is a limited edition of 30, but pieces can be sold separately.**  
[www.kooyongdesign.ie](http://www.kooyongdesign.ie)



**Architectural glass art designer Bianca Divito makes large-scale public works, private commissions and small-scale domestic pieces.**  
[www.divitostudios.com](http://www.divitostudios.com)

**The Creature Comforts cabinet by Jenny Walsh is custom-made using woods, finishes and dimensions to the client's specifications, in addition to three standard models.**  
 €2,325 plus VAT.  
[www.jennywalshdesign.com](http://www.jennywalshdesign.com)



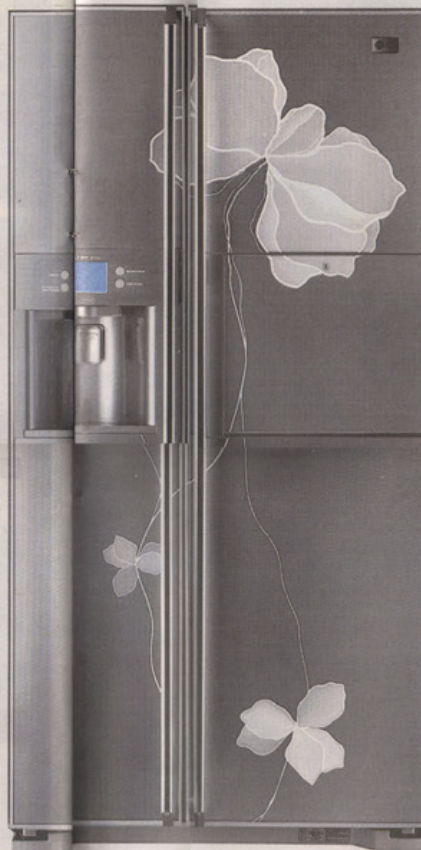




In the market for a statement piece of furniture? The patchwork look goes high design with the Oswald Squint sofa (€4,000 at The Conran Shop at Arnotts).

XP1 - V1

XP1 - V1



This beauty is the latest side-by-side fridge freezer from LG and it comes with a built-in water and ice dispenser and homebar. Outside it features a dramatic floral graphic to jazz up your kitchen (€2,300 from selected electrical retailers nationwide, check [www.lal.ie](http://www.lal.ie)).



Try a little pop of colour in the kitchen with this cheerful set of pots from the Aga Claret range. It makes a refreshing change from plain steel (from €50 at Aga stores nationwide).



Bright spring florals in a naive-style design feature on the Shibuku cushion from Linea (€12 from department stores nationwide).

## WISH LIST

Fancy a little interiors shopping spree that won't break the bank but gets you a new lamp to cheer a dreary corner, or a few cushions to bring a tired sofa back to life? Check out our selection of lovelies to tempt you into the shops, says Carol O'Callaghan



The Aqua lamp from Next blends a textile shade with an on-trend coloured glass base (€71).



Prints are everywhere on fabrics this season. Large-scale spots in muted greys and orange bring a 1970s vibe to the Polka cushion from Debenhams (€18.50).



Young Irish design company Kooyong calls this multi-functional oak piece Stubbom. Try using it as a stool or a lamp table (€398 [www.kooyongdesign.ie](http://www.kooyongdesign.ie)).



Design aficionados will love the re-launched black and white Krenit bowl, first produced in the 1950s in Denmark. It's now available in a choice of colours and sizes, starting at €16 from interiors stores and [www.normann-copenhagen.com](http://www.normann-copenhagen.com).



Pinny's are all the rage again thanks to the influence of domestic gods and goddesses on television who have us all back in the kitchen making sauces from scratch and icing cupcakes. The Stripe apron from Rayburn costs €28.95 from Aga stores nationwide.



Betty Jackson brings us the Lustre ceramic lamp base with fabric shade to brighten up a dark corner, even in daylight (€68 from Debenhams).



The House and Home range from Lisa Stickley now includes a ceramic rolling pin (€22.50) and witty bird-shaped chopping board (€12). Available at Debenhams.



File away bills and personal papers in the Kassett storage boxes from Ikea, or use them in a kiddies room for small toys and jigsaws (€6.99 for two).



Check out the Stealth by Kenwood which promises low-level noise and a quick boil (approx €69 at electrical shops nationwide).



# Cream of Irish Design on show

IT'S FINALLY here, the sequel to *Sex and the City 1*, and we'll be filling the cinemas in droves this weekend. Unlike most women who seem to fancy Mr Big, I've always had a soft spot for Aidan, the cerebral furniture designer, who carved his way into Carrie Bradshaw's heart, until his nemesis, Mr Big, showed up at a furniture fair and stole his girl. It was at this fair that Mr Big uttered, rather drunkenly, his now famous line: "Beige is bull\*\*\*\*".

I have to agree. As I traipsed around the Interior Design and Art Fair at the RDS recently, I was reminded how much more attractive is beige's close relative, cream. So how apt that the biggest presence at this show was the "Cream of Irish Design". These united Irishmen and women took Britain's 100% Design exhibition by storm last year, and re-grouped at the RDS to showcase furniture and other domestic design and art products on home territory.

Among the covetable items on show, tempting credit cards out of wallets, were multi-functional items that seem to fit the times we live in, both environmentally and economically. Sasha Sykes' gorgeous Ivy bench (€1,800) is a blend of contradictions, constructed of Perspex and resins embedded with ivy leaves and stems gathered near her home in rural Carlow. It's the sort of thing that could be used in any room in the house or even outdoors.

Clients choose the natural material they love, and Sasha does the rest. Not surprisingly, the finished products are very popular with city dwellers who crave a connection with the natural world ([www.farm21.co.uk](http://www.farm21.co.uk)).

A bookcase is for everything, not just books, and Noel Whelan's Volume lends itself beautifully to both the storage of books and the display of objects. Integrating the traditional shelf with boxes, made from walnut with a black painted interior, the piece provides an innovative and very attractive aesthetic (€850 [www.noelwhelandesign.com](http://www.noelwhelandesign.com)).

One to watch is Davin Larkin who operates as Kooyong Design.



**Carol O'Callaghan** admires some of the exhibits, from funky tables to quirky cushions and tea towels, at the RDS

This young designer makes a product called Block storage modules, which are bought individually but can be lined up, stacked to form a bookcase, or arranged in any configuration your design whim prefers. With imagination, you could also use them as occasional tables, but what stands out about these simple modules is how they can be adapted to suit the size of your space (from €149 each [www.kooyongdesign.ie](http://www.kooyongdesign.ie)).

John Lee's Golden Delicious funky table combines function and wit, drawing inspiration from



Block storage modules from Kooyong Design (€49 each) can be configured to suit available space.



Rainy Day cushion from [www.nofixedabode.ie](http://www.nofixedabode.ie), €45.



Golden Delicious table by John Lee: Price on application.



Stylishly-drawn vegetables elevate the dull little tea-towel to a new level, €10. [www.nofixedabode.ie](http://www.nofixedabode.ie)



Good China, Bad China from [www.nofixedabode.ie](http://www.nofixedabode.ie) mixes virtue with vice on a plate, €12 per pair, €250 for 14-piece set.

the apple variety of same name.

A neat coffee table by Martin Gallagher with integrated stools draws on cylindrical forms, spaces and solids in wood with glass and upholstery detail. Clever and compact, it's an arrangement to benefit compact houses where furniture can eat up space and restrict movement (€2,400 [www.irish-designers.com/martin-gallagher](http://www.irish-designers.com/martin-gallagher)).

Also showing at the fair was what might yet be the start of a new trend: eastern colonial furniture. Originating from places like Java and Singapore, these

pieces sold by Decor Furniture Gallery in Dublin sit alongside groovy 1950s chairs and tribal art, for an eclectic but exciting new look (individual pieces from €100 [www.decor.ie](http://www.decor.ie)).

Online retailer [www.nofixedabode.ie](http://www.nofixedabode.ie) brought an array of witty, contemporary accessories to the fair. Tea-towels (€10) with stylish sketches of bunches of carrots and beetroots take these functional, dull little textiles into the realms of gorgeousness. The Rainy Day selection of cushions (€45) and blankets (€55), depicting

animated woolly clouds and typical Irish showers, raise cushions above functionality to tell a story. But an item that may strike a very different chord is the Good Plate, Bad Plate range of dinner plates (pair €35, 14-piece set €250). Each one is imprinted with a single word such as "gluttony" and "abstinence", like a karmic instruction to counterbalance the bounty of the fair, or maybe just a little bit of good old fashioned Catholic guilt surfacing.

For other features by Carol O'Callaghan visit: [www.thegreatindoormagazine.com](http://www.thegreatindoormagazine.com)



# ALL THE FUN OF THE FAIR

Interiors lovers should head to the RDS this weekend for the annual Interior Design and Art Fair. Celebrating the best of Irish creativity, it's a great opportunity to witness the latest work of our most exciting producers all under one roof...

**Amanda  
Cochrane**



**T**his year *Image Interiors* is delighted to be taking part in the fair, with a colourful stand that features some of our favourite pieces on display. Look out for a colourful coat stand from *Lost Weekend*, Ligne Roset's show-stopping Pumpkin Chair, great storage solutions by Kooyong Design, a hot pink coffee table from Cavey Design, fun lighting ideas from *No Fixed Abode* and lots more by *Bo Concept*, *Duff Tisdall*, *Roche-Bobois*, *Rug Art* and *The Conran Shop* for *Arnotts*. 

*Image Interiors* is out now



## Ray of sunshine

Owner of contemporary  
design stores *Living in*



## New kid on the block

When furniture designer *Davin Larkin* came back to Dublin in December 2008 after more than a year travelling around the world, a lot had changed. Facing a flagging economy and grim employment prospects, he decided to set up his own design studio, *Kooyong Design*.

"There wasn't much hope of getting a job and there still isn't, and this was something I'd always wanted to do."

Larkin's spacious studio in Tallaght Arts Centre showcases the work of designers *Sadhbh Fitzgibbon*, *Kate Cronin* and *Jenny Walsh* as well as his

own, including these funky block storage modules, above. Designed to be fun and truly multi-functional, the blocks can be used as storage units, table legs, stools and side tables.

"The modules allow the customer to have the final creative word in how you will display your most prized items," he says. "They give the customer the freedom to create something truly unique."

Influenced by Japanese and Scandinavian designs, Larkin's collection in beautifully polished oak features simple, well-designed and functional pieces, with the aim of put-

ting Ireland firmly on the design map.

"People value other Irish entities like art or music, so if there was a market for Irish design abroad it would be hugely beneficial. I think we need to recognise design as a craft in itself."

Although a fan of cheap and cheerful *IKEA*, Larkin feels there needs to be a balance between temporary and long-lasting furniture. "We're living in a very throw-away society — things are only used for a few weeks or a few years. I think we need to get back to a strong design aesthetic, where something will last for a lifetime."

See [www.kooyongdesign.com](http://www.kooyongdesign.com)



**Kooyong Design** is a young, Irish product design firm that specialises in furniture, interiors and homewares. It was established in 2009 as a design driven company with an aim to show Ireland the hidden talents of our own designers and create a demand for contemporary Irish design.

Kooyong Design is dedicated to producing **sleek**, functional statement pieces that will still add to your home in 20 years time. They currently manufacture all their products in Ireland and are 100% dedicated to the design industry in Ireland.



"Our aim in setting up **sticks ff** was to create bespoke, innovative furniture in which the initial concept could develop - fluently and organically- right through the manufacturing process. It's about interpreting a brief through the prism of our style so that the finished piece accurately mirrors our clients needs and the pleasure we took in creating it"

Sticks have simplified this approach while retaining their core concerns- excellent build- quality, clean style and **fanatical attention to detail**. The result is an exciting range of contemporary furniture that is cool, very affordable and ready to go.



**Locker 13** is the collaboration of designers Karl Medcalf and Shane Wilson. Close friends from childhood, they both graduated with degrees in Industrial Design from NCAD in 1999, and ten years later, the time was finally right to launch Locker 13.

Their goal is simple: to design original, **unique** and beautiful furniture. They believe there is a place, somewhere between high end furniture and the expansive furniture 'supermarkets', for clever, desirable and affordable furniture.



Douglas **Carson** and Rosaleen **Crushell** began their collaboration in 2003 following their graduation from University College Dublin, School of Architecture.

Based in London for six years, they worked for a number of award winning design practices. Following on from a number of commissions from clients for one off pieces, they have added furniture design to their already impressive array of skills, debuting with the Snowdrop light and the **multifunctional** TableChair.



Garvan **de Bruir** is an old-school craftsman who loves natural materials and traditional methods of construction, whose award-winning designs are visually very contemporary. The dimensions of the 'Aviator' and 'Parachuter' bags both suit aircraft carry on requirements, while the Laptop bags are fitted to various sizes of laptop screens.

The Leather & Luggage collection initially grew out of Garvan's background in furniture **craftsmanship**, where he uses leather in combination with hardwood and polished metals.

**Klickity** is a product design studio based in Dublin. Their aim is to create quality products with minimal environmental impact. They believe in a **holistic** approach to design and strive to balance creativity, innovation and sustainability in all their work.

Wherever possible, they choose reclaimed or locally sourced materials and use Irish manufacturers. Their manifesto is to consider exciting new design ideas, the environment and you, design innovative and unique products and to create affordable products manufactured in Ireland.



**Hugo Thompson** is a freelance designer, with a genuine love of objects and our relationships with them. His work is both sculptural and full of **resonance** for the objects that inspire and are used to create it, as can be seen in his piano series.

Not content with a BA in Industrial Design from NCAD he also went off and got himself a BA Furniture Design from UBI & University of Huddersfield. He worked on in-house projects for manufacturers and consultancies in both product and furniture design and has exhibited his work both in Ireland and internationally.



Gestaltung- 'creative force'; a term which encompasses **Gordon Byrne's** beliefs on design. He believes that this creative force should be used to shape the things and places around us. It is the design process that makes up the experiences and material world that we live in.

Gordon is a multidisciplinary designer, who has been at the forefront of promoting a culture of design in Ireland. Guided by the principles of modernist design his work, intended for industrial manufacture, can be fabricated with little or no waste. **'minimal material maximum expression'**





# Plan

architectureinteriorsengineeringenvironmental

October 2009

## BIG ART

Plan gets the guided tour of Visual and the George Bernard Shaw Theatre by its architect Terry Pawson

McCarthy O'Hara's award-winning Birr Civic Offices and Library • What would you change about your old school?  
How a group of students fabricated and transported a mobile cinema to an Ethiopian village

## Kooyong Design

New Irish design firm Kooyong Design provides showcase for home-grown furniture

These three pieces are available at new Irish design firm Kooyong Design, a company that aims to support Irish designers and give them the opportunity to design and market products of their own to the public. New designs are offered on a regular basis that will be produced in limited edition batches and offered at affordable prices. All products will be designed by Irish designers and as the company grows, so will its product range. According to Davin Larkin, head designer at Kooyong Design, all products are manufactured in Ireland.

*Each product has been designed by Davin Larkin*



### Triad Coffee Table

A three legged solid walnut coffee table with a seemingly floating glass top. The design is accentuated with a unique triangular joint drawing your attention to the centre of this elegant table. It is limited to 30 pieces only and could be the centerpiece of many rooms.

Dimensions: Diameter 800mm, height 350mm



### Lanky Console Table

This lanky console table boasts a sleek glass edged top alongside chunky solid oak legs. It is limited to 30 pieces only.

Dimensions: 1000mm x 800mm x 380mm



### Stubborn Dining Table

The stubborn dining table is offered with either bench seating or individual stools or a mix if you desire and is limited to 30 pieces only. It is manufactured in solid oak with a unique design that will be the signature piece of any dining room.

Dimensions: 2100mm x 900mm x 750mm (table)

1940mm x 400mm x 450mm (bench)

490mm x 400mm x 450mm (stool)

FRESH



# Designer gets leg-up at Royal Hibernian

By James Enright

A young Irish furniture designer is showcasing his designs at a pop-up shop in the Royal Hibernian Academy.

Davin Larkin established Kooyong Design in 2009, and will be selling his furniture, interior and homeware designs at the RHA until Friday.

Fourteen designers have been allocated fortnight-long slots in the premises, as part of an initiative aimed at boosting the creative sector.

Kooyong Design specialises in free-standing furniture such as mirrors, lamps and coffee tables. It also designs greeting cards and provides a framed photography service.

"I went travelling around the world and, when I came back, there was no work for designers, so I decided to set up a business myself," said Larkin.

"It has been a steep learning curve, but I'm building a brand and it's great to have a shop to work from, if only for a fortnight. I am getting a great reception."

Larkin owns a studio at his home in



Davin Larkin of Kooyong Design

TONY O'SHEA

Palmerstown, and sells his furniture online.

His designs are also stocked in Designist on Dublin's South Great George's Street and the Irish Design Shop in Bow Lane.

"Renting a city-centre unit isn't

feasible or cost-effective for designers," said Larkin, who is a qualified cabinet-maker and a former student at the National College of Art and Design. "The pop-up shop provides great exposure for my work, and it'll be the same for the other designers."



## INNER VISION

### Ring for breakfast €3.95

Valentine's Day could be every day, if you create a romantic breakfast using the Zeal silicone egg ring, which forms heart-shaped eggs on the pan. Available from Howards Storage World, [www.hsw.ie](http://www.hsw.ie).



### Let it grow €1.79

Spring is around the corner, which means it's time to get planting again. Ikea's Västlig planting bags are made of lightweight polypropylene and polythene plastic, with handles to make them easier to move when full. They can also be used to collect leaves and weeds, and for storage.



### Pinch point from €85

Irish designer Davin Larkin's new Pinch and Splay cylindrical floor lamps create atmosphere by casting light and shadow across walls, floors and ceilings, and are part of the designer's range of affordable designs. The Pinch floor lamp costs €95, the splay is €85 and a Pinch and Splay pair costs €170, as an introductory offer. [www.kooyongdesign.ie](http://www.kooyongdesign.ie)





## DARA FLYNN



Irish design is bursting with vitality and ideas — and it's all thanks to the recession

Irish design is undergoing a rebirth. It is popping with colour, innovation and positivity — a welcome sight in what are difficult times for the industry. That is the message that came over last weekend at the annual Interior Design and Art Fair at the RDS in Dublin. The sudden injection of young blood, which has been encouraged rather than dampened by recession, must have something to do with it.

This year, youth was out in force, showcasing edgy, appealing pieces never before associated with an Irish design tradition and proving that the internationalisation of Irish work is finally under way.

The Cream of Irish Design group, launched by the eco-minded lighting designer Shane Holland to coincide with last year's fair, has added to its membership. The group already includes some of the country's leading designers, such as Holland, Sasha Sykes, of Farm2, and Liz Nilsson, but it has expanded to give a platform to new faces.

Among them are Dunleavy Bespoke, Brigitta Varadi, a textile artist, Devin Larkin, of Kooyong Design, and the furniture makers Martin Gallagher and Jenny Walsh, giving the line-up a younger edge.

"Design-led furniture hasn't been something that is supported in Ireland, so it's good to be able to show our work at a fair like this," says Walsh.

"The press we've received already in Europe has been amazing. Whether or not people buy it in recession is another question, but at least when things recover, we have our names out there and people know who we are."

Walsh, a graduate of Dublin Institute of Technology, makes quirky, angular furniture with a strong identity. To some, her witty Creature Comforts sideboard is simply a zig-zag sideboard; to others, it resembles a headless donkey. It comes in a demure walnut or zesty, orange-lacquered finish (from €1,200).

Her My City coffee table is inlaid with intersecting strips of walnut laminate reminiscent of a city map. It is available in two finishes (from €950 to €1,150). The Chase, meanwhile, is an unusual range of medium-sized bookcases, each forming different lines and angles, in poses that are almost human.

Younger makers, Walsh says, are taking advantage of the lower manufacturing costs that have been a silver lining to the recession. The less to appear at shows such as the IDA have come down, too.

"When I was in college and looking for quotes to manufacture my work, they were coming back at four or five grand. Now I can get the same piece made for a quarter of that, and manufacturers are emailing me to ask if they can make something," she says.

Larkin, whose fledgling company was set up last year, was showing his Stubborn table and chair set, limited to an edition of 30 pieces.

A simple oak table with clean lines, it has a Japanese feel as well as the solid craftsmanship we associate with Irish

woodwork. It is available with bench seating or stools, and was a stand-out piece on the Cream of Irish Design floor.

Larkin's Pinch and Splay lamps were also on show with their hand-assembled, cylindrical, solid wood strip shades whose birch-ply rings cast light and shadow across walls and ceilings.

# New kids on the blocks

"BECAUSE OF THE RECESSION, I CAN GET A PIECE MADE FOR A QUARTER OF WHAT I WAS BEING QUOTED WHEN I WAS IN COLLEGE"



Zelouf and Bell's ladder; right, Scarff with his Contour tray



Martin Gallagher, a student of Letterfrack Furniture College, completed the youthful group with his craft-meets-industrial pieces, including his celebrated 3-D coffee table and stools, and the award-winning Andu console table.

Liz LaCumber, an interior designer and retailer, took the opportunity to air

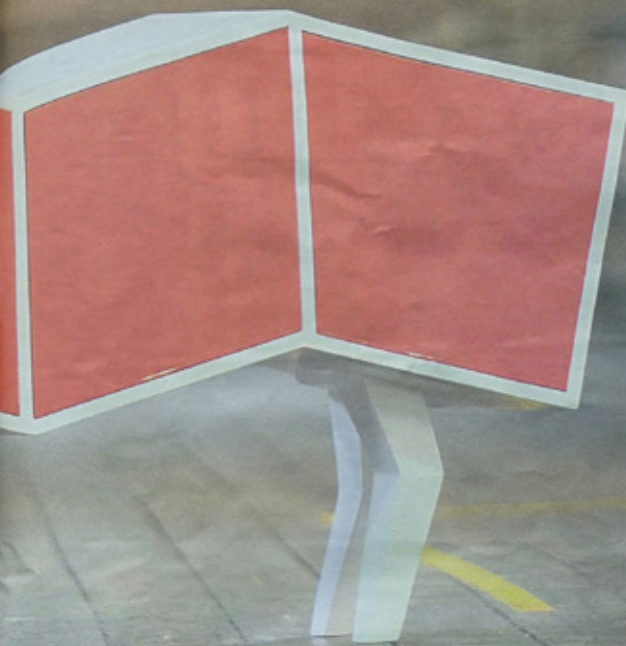
Orla Kiely's colourful retro bed linen for the first time in Ireland, while the centrepiece of the Armada stand was the multi-toned Lipse Roost pumpkin chair by Pierre Paulin, a piece released to coincide with the brand's 25th anniversary.

Also on display were the quirky designer products stocked by No Fixed Abode, the online homewares shop run by Peter Mac Conn, along with vintage furniture companies such as Killian McNulty's excellent Mid-Century Online, a niche market that has exploded since the recession.

The Irish-American duo Zelouf and Bell turned heads with their Larder, a key part of their new Found collection, which places an emphasis on salvaged objects with a back story. The Larder (which costs about €10,000) is a traditionally produced cabinet of solid European oak, featuring on its doors a hand-cut stencil graphic by the Dublin-based artist and activist Will St Ledger.

Leo Scarff, an established maker with a reputation for clean design in bold cel-

Walsh with her quirky Creature Comforts sideboard



Byrne's giant clothes-peg wall-hanger

ours, has been playing about with the paint tray again this year, producing a range of muted grey and mimosa-yellow stools, and a series of Contour trays made of birch and steel.

Gordon Byrne, his former studio partner, who has a penchant for industrial rather than craft-led traditions, presented his oversized clothes-peg wall-hangers. The pegs have giant springs, which, when fastened to a surface, provide storage for clothing as well as papers. They will go into production in the coming months and are expected to sell for about €20 each.

to jennywalshdesign.com;  
creamofirishdesign.ie;  
shanehollandesign.com;  
kooyongdesign.ie; irish-designers.com;  
larkinartdesign.com;  
gordbyrneanddesign.com; lizlamber.com; amercia.ie; nichelabell.com;  
orlaandbell.com





The comic-book-style Splat mirror, by Larkin of Kooyong Design

# A fresh look at the Irish

A Dublin retailer is flying the flag for Ireland's young designers with an exhibition of their finest works

## DARA FLYNN



**A** bench made from a piano, a floor light that is the shape of a snowdrop, coffee tables with animal magnetism, vases moulded from bottles of fabric softener and the sort of mirror you would expect Batman to peer into as he adjusts his cape.

This is Irish design today: resourceful, functional and funny. These objects jostle for space at one of the more progressive events in the St Patrick's festival calendar: The Look of the Irish, an exhibition organised and curated by Designist, a new Dublin retailer selling affordable objects of desire.

The exhibition, which runs until Tuesday, gathers together new (or relatively new) pieces that the organisers, Jennie Flynn and Barbara Nolan, considered exciting enough to be

showcased, despite not meeting the shop's "under €100" criteria.

At the event's launch last week, scores of design fans, friends and passers-by packed the bijou premises on South Great George's Street, wedging themselves between designer tables, chairs and objects, and hitting their heads on the Irish-made lightshades hanging from the ceiling.

The turnout was the sort you would expect at a popular gallery opening or at a film screening in Temple Bar, a few yards away. Engineered to coincide with St Patrick's Day, the show aims to show off new Irish design, to gauge consumer reaction to the products and to foster collaboration in the design process. The pieces are on sale, too, of course.

"The process of selling a product involves the manufacturer, retailer and consumer, but the three aren't necessarily talking to one another," says Flynn. "An exhibition like this lets us link those up. Makers can get feedback from the consumers about their products, and they can feed this information to potential manufacturers and investors."

At college, says Flynn, designers are constantly given feedback about their work, but when they leave, they find they are almost designing in a vacuum. Formal product testing is expensive, so a retail exhibition is an easy, immediate way to test market reaction.

The makers on show include Carson & Crushell, a pair of architects with a keen eye for a product, as seen in their delicate snowdrop light (€490). Davin Larkin, of Kooyong Design, a relatively



Liz Fingleton and Kate Cronin, of Kilkenny, with their Palm light

poetic young Irish maker, introduced Splat, his prototype orange mirror.

Also on display are pieces by Sticks Fine Furniture, Locker 13, Gavan de Bruir, Gordon Byrne, Hugo Thompson and Kilkenny, which presented its award-winning recycled Palm light (€49.99).

"They all have something in common," says Flynn. "We're a nation of clever, well-educated, forward-thinking people. These makers take these traits and apply them to a product. But there's also a resonance in each object. A vase that's given significance by casting it in a lovely material; a piano bench that reminds me of years of piano lessons, or a table with beautiful detailing."

Each maker also has a decidedly contemporary bent, either in output or in ethos, and is concerned with the issue of waste. For now, all are involved in batch-produced or one-off design, but not all of them by choice.

"The manufacturing cost base is relatively high in Ireland, as we don't produce as many of the raw materials we used to, so we have to ship them in," says Flynn. On the other hand, batch-production is labour-intensive and expensive, too.

Many Irish makers aim to do more than one-off, but to stay away from the excesses of mass production.

"I'm all for any help designers can get and an exhibition like this is refreshing and encouraging," says Thompson, the creator of the Piano Bench. "I have no problem in principle with mass production, since to produce everything yourself is a tall order that requires



O'Donnell and Burdock, of Sticks, and their birch ply tables



Thompson's bench; below, Flynn and Nolan, of Designist, the organisers of the show

"DESIGN IS A BIT OF A VOCATION — LIKE BEING A ROCK STAR, EXCEPT YOU'RE COVERED IN DUST, IN A WORKSHOP, AND NOBODY'S HEARD OF YOU"

"WE'RE A NATION OF CLEVER, FORWARD-THINKING PEOPLE. THESE MAKERS TAKE THESE TRAITS AND APPLY THEM TO A PRODUCT"



investment. But my preference would be an Irish manufacturer and natural materials."

His bench is made from an old instrument supplied by Pianos Plus. "Traditionally, the Irish house had its upright piano, and today it's not hard to come across unloved ones. It's a shame to see such workmanship and wood go to waste. They tell a story," he says.

For Sticks Fine Furniture — also known as Andrew Burdock and Nik O'Donnell — the pieces on show at Designist are a departure from the other side of the business, which is high-end, solid-wood bespoke furniture. Sticks's tables, named Plank, Oscar and Frog (€125-€180), are made of painted birch

ply, and come flat-packed in a parcel, so the buyer can pop the legs out, assemble, and enjoy.

The pair, who graduated from the National College of Art and Design in 1999, have both had children this year. "Hence the simplicity of the designs," says Burdock. "We just didn't get as much time in the workshop."

Fluethood may have had a more subtle influence: each table has a playful feel and a characterful, animal-like presence, coupled with an optimistic colour palette. "We've trained for the mass-produced, but we were never trained for the marketing, branding and promotion you need for your designs to make it," he says. "We'll give it a go,

because we love it. Design is a bit of a vocation at times — like being a rock star, except you're a rock star covered in dust, down a back alley in a workshop, and nobody's heard of you."

Yet, the British, Scandinavians and Europeans have held the trophies for contemporary design long enough. These days, the objects we buy and gush about to our friends are just as likely to be Irish. Retailers and manufacturers, take note.

Designist: [carsonandcrushell.com](http://carsonandcrushell.com); [detrar.com](http://detrar.com); [gordonbyrnedesign.com](http://gordonbyrnedesign.com); [hugothompson.ie](http://hugothompson.ie); [kilkenny.ie](http://kilkenny.ie); [kooyongdesign.ie](http://kooyongdesign.ie); [locker13.ie](http://locker13.ie); [sticksfine.com](http://sticksfine.com)





## Popper Good

Irish Design Shop will be 'popping up' at the Royal Hibernian Academy for two weeks this month with pop-up shops selling the very best from Irish designers. Get your hands on new prints by Yellowhammer, a Kooyong Design stubborn dining table (table pictured, stubborn diners not pictured), some wooden clothes hooks by Adrien Coen – it'll be like hanging your coat on a tree, only inside your house. This year's new range of mugs will also be introduced, designed by six of Irish Design's favourite artists. But if that's not your cup of tea, there'll be DJs, dancing, art exhibitions and raffles to entertain you on the launch night with free drinks on entry and a free one-year 20 for 20 membership to the RHA if you're in your twenties. The free membership includes free entry to artist lecture series and film/music nights, discounts in the RHA pop-up shop, café and bookshop and monthly deals in restaurants and shops throughout the city.

The Irish Design pop-up shop at the RHA will be running from March 4-18th. The launch night begins at 9pm with tickets costing €20 each.



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# woman's way

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**HEALTHY LIFESTYLE**

**What's your stress type?**

**PLUS EXPERT ADVICE ON HOW TO COPE**

## INTERIORS

# Irish interiors focus

Ireland has produced some of the world's best designers from fashion to interior designers. We take a look at some of the work done by some of Ireland's best furniture designers

**BEN GABRIEL**

Ben Gabriel trained in Carpentry and Joinery in Utrecht, and specialised in cabinet making. He and his family settled in south Galway, where he now runs his own workshop. He specialises in small batch production and one-off designs on a commission basis in materials from hardwoods, native and imported, to steel, glass and stone. Their popular Terenure Boxes, made from solid French oak, are now available at a more competitive price. For more information, tel: 091 632 997 or visit [www.bengabriel.com](http://www.bengabriel.com)

Having begun his career in furniture and fabric retail, Sadhbh Fitzgibbon went on to achieve the prestigious Rhode International Diploma in Interior Design in 2003. She has designed the interior space for hotels, restaurants, offices, showrooms and bespoke private homes. Sadhbh uses her passion for creativity in her design process when she's working for clients. The Elegance console table is inspired by light and airy for jewellery and the beauty of natural wood. The design creates a beautiful profile to the table, along with a decorative turned piece of wood or 'pendant' which Sadhbh has made a feature of her design. For more information, tel: 087 700 3094 or visit [www.sadhbhfitzgibbon.com](http://www.sadhbhfitzgibbon.com)

Studying under leading Irish potters, Thomas Diem began to develop his own individual style. He honed his skills with the Craft Council award, and then decided to set up on his own in 1997. His line of pottery catering for the new, conscious Irish market. Since then, Diem Ceramics has become a name in interior design and giftware. Thomas and his work is available in galleries nationwide, including Sherry Shop Nassau Street, Dublin. For more information tel: 01 835 9083 or visit [www.thomasiem.com](http://www.thomasiem.com)

**DAVIN LARKIN**

Qualified furniture designer and industrial designer, Davin Larkin has worked for a number of companies across Ireland and has had his work featured in international magazines. Having studied in Ireland and Denmark, he is now based in Dublin and is the head designer at Koorvong Design. The Seaborn dining table is a simple table with a clean design to allow for a relaxed dining experience. Manufactured in solid oak, it makes a bold statement in any room. This design is limited to 10 persons only and will offer clients something unique that they know will last a lifetime. For more information, tel: 01 443 3133 or visit [www.davinlarkin.com](http://www.davinlarkin.com)

**THE BEST IN IRISH BRANDS**

**SHANE HOLLAND**

The Shane Holland Design Workshop is an award winning company based in Duleek, producing sculptural and functional elements in mixed materials. The skilled team of designers and crafts persons design and build unique pieces including a lighting and furniture collection. Shane Holland's striking bench/chandelier is made from recycled jars and PET bottles to provide a dynamic lighting concept. For more information, tel: 041 988 2220 or visit [www.shanehollanddesign.com](http://www.shanehollanddesign.com)

**JOHN LEE**

Having graduated from GMT Limerick, then Limerick College in 1993, John Lee went on to spend a number of years working with one of the UK's most renowned Furniture Designer Makers. Now based in Maynooth, County Kildare, he can be said to be a traditional and self-developed cabinet making technician to create pieces which last generations. This piece, titled 'Also', is a simple table designed by John Lee in solid oak and Burn Oak with a leather floor drawer made from French Linex. Featuring hand cut dovetails. The piece also has a variety of uses and is perfect to order. For more information, tel: 01 505 4660 or visit [www.johnleefurniture.com](http://www.johnleefurniture.com)

**KATE CRONIN**

Kate is an Irish product designer with a passion for environmental and sustainable design. In 2006 Kate graduated from the National College of Art and Design, Dublin with a BDES Honours in Industrial Design. She then spent two years working as a packaging designer in a London based design firm. Kate is now based in Dublin and is busy completing a MSc in Environmental and Design Studies. The Ovoid table piece is a simple, functional design made from recycled materials and comes in a variety of colours. For more information, tel: 01 44 33 133 or visit [www.katecronin.com](http://www.katecronin.com)

**NOEL WHELAN**

Noel is one of Ireland's top furniture designers making domestic and corporate furniture such as boardroom tables, executive office furniture and reception desks for businesses all over the country. Inspired by the sweeping coastline of Watford, each piece by Noel Whelan has timeless appeal. He uses classic proportions, an innovative use of natural materials, and a harmonious blending of complementary hardwoods which are the signature of his work. Each design is carefully conceived to balance aesthetics with functionality. The Volume Bookcase is hand-made in walnut, the volume bookcase combines shelving with storage boxes. For more information, tel: 051 396 6206 or visit [www.noelwhelandesign.com](http://www.noelwhelandesign.com)

**THOMAS DIEM**

**HEALTHY LIFESTYLE**

**What's your stress type?**

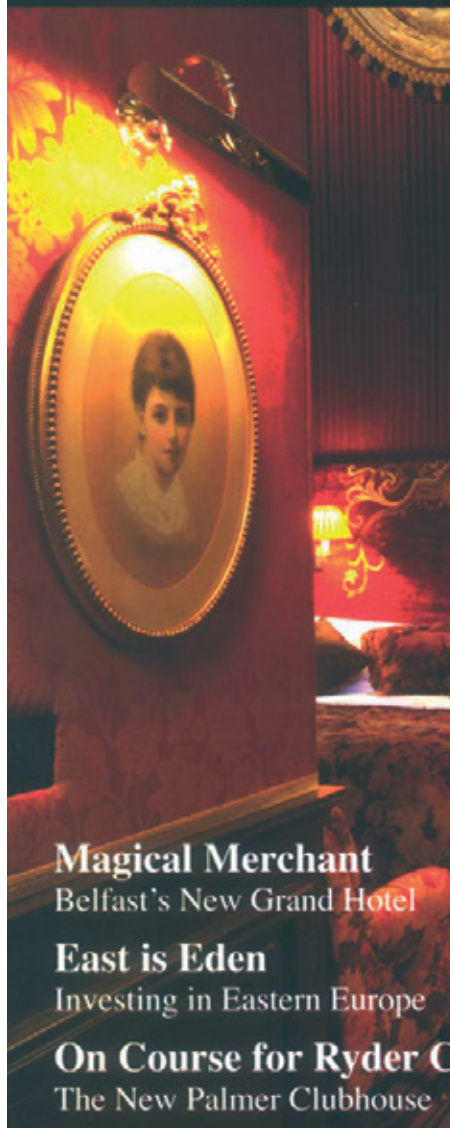
**PLUS EXPERT ADVICE ON HOW TO COPE**



# COMMERCIAL

## *Property & Interiors*

IRELAND'S DEFINITIVE GUIDE TO PROPERTY, DESIGN AND FIT-OUT



**Magical Merchant**  
Belfast's New Grand Hotel

**East is Eden**  
Investing in Eastern Europe

**On Course for Ryder Cup**  
The New Palmer Clubhouse

### WHAT PASSENGER IS SATISFIED WITH AIRPORT SEATING?



Research has proven that airport seating is both uncomfortable for the users and radically out of date for one of today's fastest growing industries. The airline business has seen massive growth in low fare airlines and the use of hub airports and with these increases, delays have become more common for passengers. A young designer, Davin Larkin saw this problem and has designed an airport seat for passengers that accepts the fact there will be delays and offers a new solution for the airports of tomorrow. aer. series is a modular furniture system for airport terminals. The design looks specifically at the problems of delayed passengers and how comfort can be improved during their stay.

The design offers a range of seating positions. These positions range from a formal upright seat to a relaxing posture for snoozing.

The design aims to provide a seat for all purposes. Snoozing, working, communicating and sitting are just a few.

Each seat offers a unique curved head support to take the weight off your shoulders while you wait for your flight, a side table for every user with suitcase storage space underneath, and a separate footrest that does not interfere with normal seating positions but offers many variations.

aer. series offers a modular system from a two seater and upwards. This allows the system to fit into any airport interior. aer. series also comes in a range of finishes and colours for the steelwork, timber and seat coverings to match every interior.

Davin Larkin is a young designer who has studied at various institutes both in Ireland and abroad giving him a strong grounding in design. He has qualified both as a furniture designer and maker from The Furniture College, Letterfrack and as an Industrial Designer from NCAD. He has also studied abroad at the Aarhus Architectural School in Denmark where he may continue to study for a masters degree.



IRELAND'S BEST LOVED INTERIORS MAGAZINE

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## DAVIN LARKIN

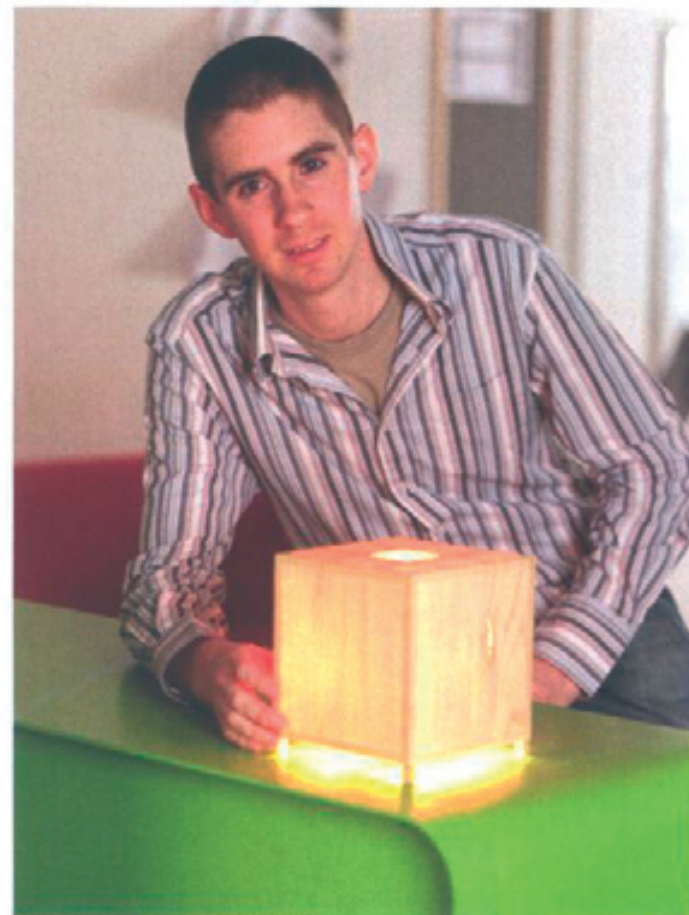
**COLLEGE:** NCAD, Dublin

**COURSE:** Industrial Design

**DESIGN:** The real beauty of this compact light is to be seen when lit, though the piece makes for a pretty, Japanese-style ornament in its own right. Showing off the natural features of the wood, the glow of light from within brings out the grain and the grooves.

**GET IN TOUCH:** Tel: 087 997 2355.

email: davin.larkin@gmail.com





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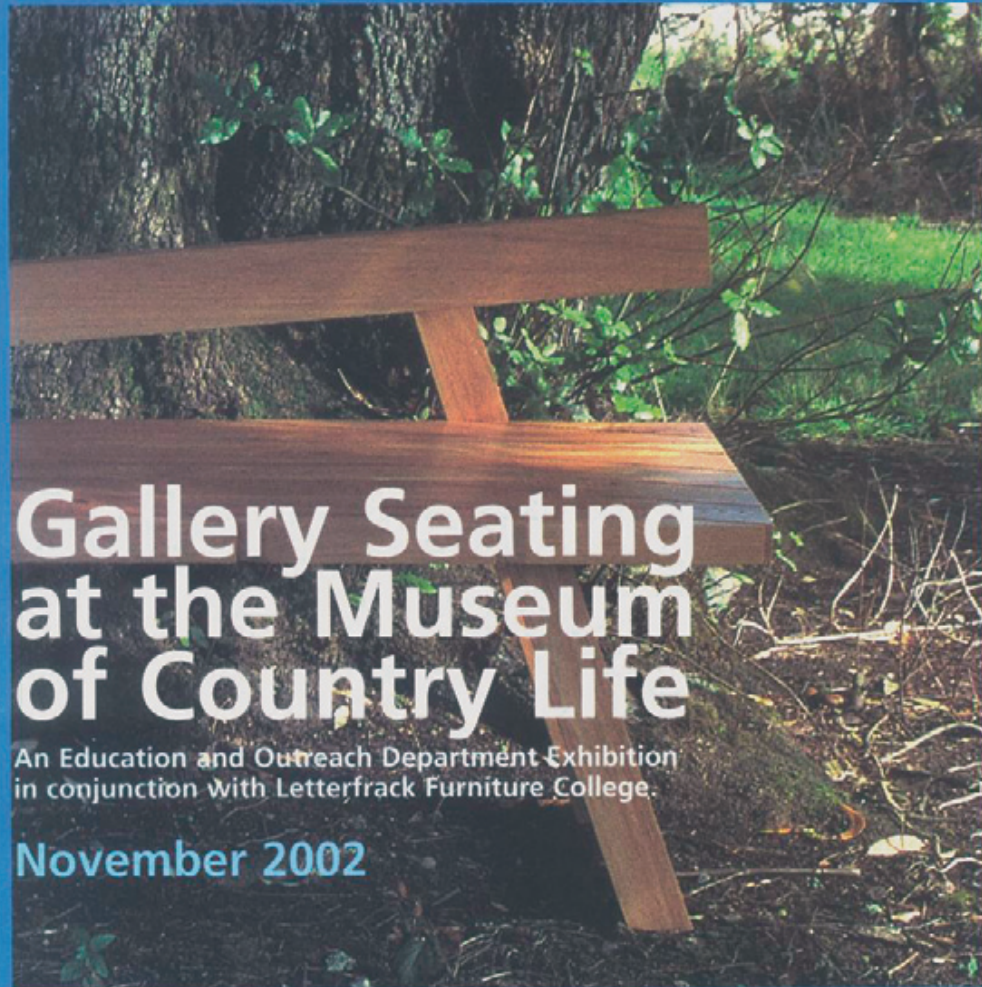


## DAVIN LARKIN

20-year-old Davin Larkin from Clonskeagh, Dublin is so passionate about designing and making furniture he admits to being the first to arrive at college in the morning and one of the last to leave at night. "I love the challenge of working with wood, to see the finished product and say 'I made this', says model pupil Davin, who's just completed a National Certificate in Furniture Design and Manufacture at Letterfrack Furniture College, Galway. "I like clean, simple architectural-style furniture that's adaptable, transportable, easily assembled and easily stored." Take this gallery seat which he designed for the Natural Museum of Country Life in Turlough Park. It's a flat pack design that can be adapted into a four-seater bench or coffee table - pure genius!

Contact Tel: 087 997 2355.





# Gallery Seating at the Museum of Country Life

An Education and Outreach Department Exhibition  
in conjunction with Letterfrack Furniture College.

November 2002

\*GALLERY SEATING



<sup>3</sup>Davin Larkin

red oak

Designed to fit comfortably in the interior of the Museum. It attempts to reflect some of the strong architectural characteristics of the building - simple shapes and a strong use of shadow gaps. The proportions relate successfully to each other to provide a design that looks strong and sturdy but not bulky.



# DAVIN LARKIN

[www.davinlarkin.com](http://www.davinlarkin.com)