

Furniture designers at exhibit
think outside the box

Urban Remedies

Thaw 2005

SHAFRAAZ KABA
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THAW 2005

Furniture design exhibit

The Thaw 2005 furniture design exhibit is a small but significant show that takes place yearly during The Works Art and Design Festival.

This year, it makes up the majority of the design theme of the festival. This is a tribute to the hard work of the Industrial Designs of Edmonton Association, or IDEA.

For three years, IDEA has organized and, in partnership with The Works, produced the summer Thaw exhibition and the winter Frost furniture design show. Every year, the Thaw and Frost exhibits have grown in the number of designers exhibiting furniture as well as in public interest. Per-

- ▶ **Presented by:** The Works International Visual Arts Society
- ▶ **When:** June 24 to July 6
- ▶ **Hours:** Tuesday to Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- ▶ **Where:** Red Strap Market, Main Floor, 10305 97th St.
- ▶ **Admission:** Free
- ▶ **Reception:** Tonight, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., includes food, drinks and grooves by a live DJ. Free admission
- ▶ **More information:** www.theideagroup.ca

haps it is a sign of Edmonton reaching maturity as a creative capital city.

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The S-leave stool from Singapore is a rare international entry in the show.

Recent grads, established designers represented in show

REMEDIES

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"Thaw is about showcasing local talent in design," says Adriean Koleric, media representative for IDEA. "But for the first time, we received an international submission: The S-leave stool from Singapore. I have no idea how the designer got a hold of us."

Designed by Joey Sin Wai Ping, the S-leave stool is a fibreglass resin design that is exotic and extremely original.

"The Thaw exhibit has designs from recent grads to more established designers like Geoff Lilje and Chet Domanski and Chris Brandt of Blvd Furniture," says Koleric. Blvd Furniture created Trad, a multifunctional object that can be a side table or stool. An optional cushion top is also available.

"Trad gets its name from its resemblance to a pint glass and the Big Rock's Traditional Ale," says Domanski.

Other pieces in the exhibit include the Hoodoo lamp by Shoko Cesar and Greg Ball. Made of inexpensive chloroplast, the landscape-inspired lamp hides two bulbs within to create a warm glow. Either bulb can be on or off, creating flexibility for lighting levels.

Cesar and Ball are leaders in Edmonton's design community. Cesar is IDEA's president and Ball is chairman of the Media, Art and Design Exposed (MADE) in Edmonton Society.

Ant I.D. also produced a striking red lamp. The trestle lamp, designed by Tim Antoniak and James Compton, uses a playful base structure that hides the electrical wiring to the bulb.

Small home accessories can also be found in the exhibit. The Wind Worn vase by Erika Sanchez can hold wheat stalks or tall grasses to create an arresting sculpture.

Koleric contributed "framesicles" to the show. These oversized Popsicle stick-like picture frames are a whimsical route to enlivening a space. Anousha Razavi used a simple push light wrapped with etched wood veneer to create charming light boxes.

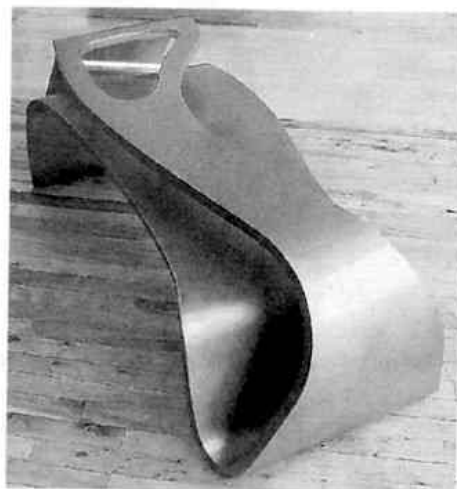
Some larger pieces in the exhibit include several coffee tables and even a divider screen.

Quynh Dang contributed two pieces



PHOTOS: SHAFRAAZ KABA, THE JOURNAL

Above: Shoko Cesar and his Hoodoo lamp. Right: the Trad side table/stool.



The Bloob table



that make use of chalk paint. The ODD coffee table and Don't Forget the Milk room divider can be drawn on with erasable chalk. Furniture now can function as a message board for roommates who keep missing each other.

Cam Frith entered a wildly undulating coffee table made of medium-density fibreboard and glass. It is rendered in a silver paint that makes it a standout in any room.

In contrast, Charlotte Faulk's Emily table is more like artistic sculpture that has many meanings. Images painted on its many wooden boards provide different readings of the piece, so one can never get bored with the table.

The Thaw exhibit holds many works that display the best of Edmonton design.

"We're trying to show the general public what industrial design is," states Koleric. "Thaw is almost like a grassroots movement that keeps on getting bigger." Two years ago, the first Thaw exhibit had 20 designers apply for a chance to exhibit. This year, there were more than 65 applicants, and IDEA has picked some of the best there are in Edmonton. Thirty-two designers are represented in the show.

Stop by tonight to meet the designers and stay for the party with food, drink and a live DJ.

Shafraaz Kaba works for Manase Isaac Architects, a leading architectural firm for sustainable design. He can be reached at shafraaz@miarch.com.