

idFX

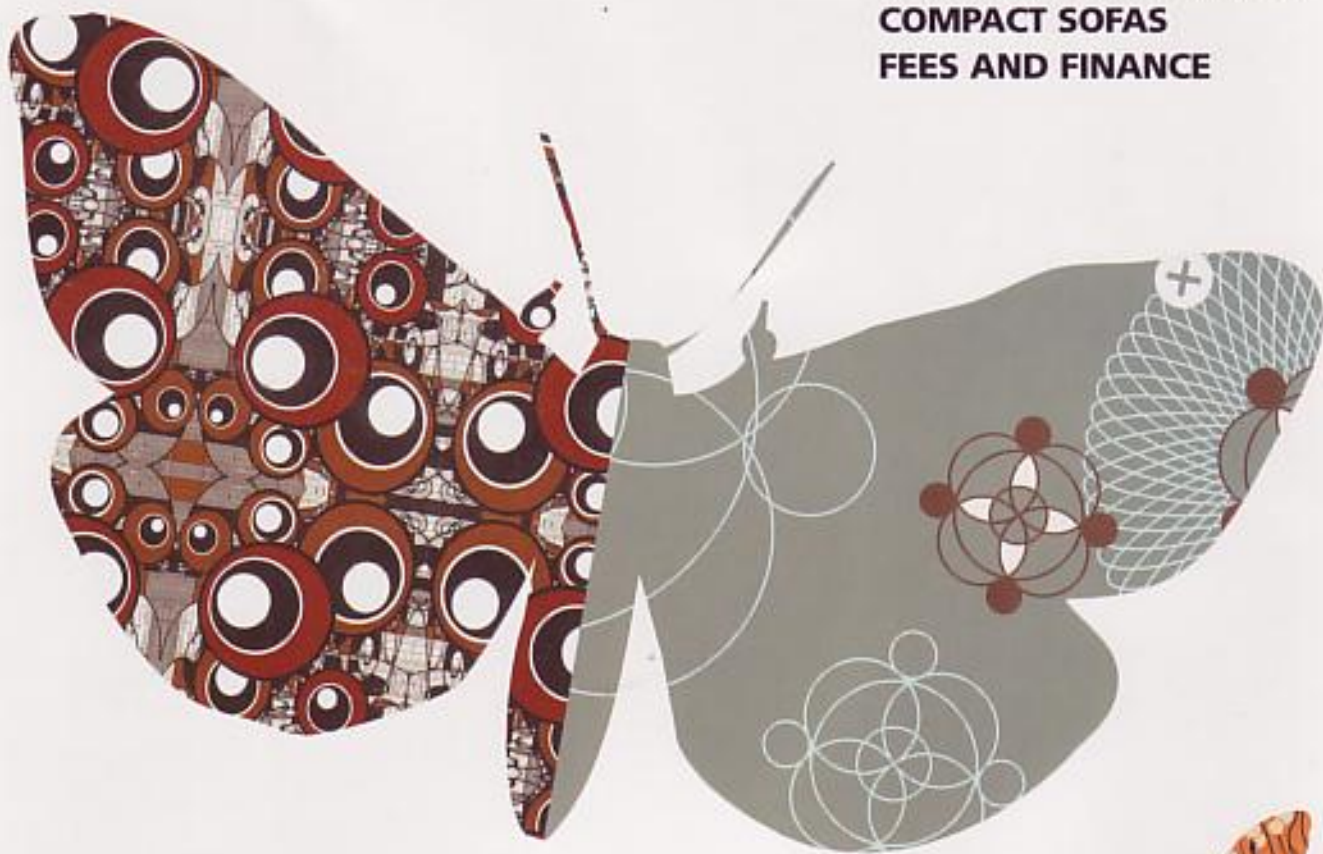
SEPTEMBER 2007 £4.50



INSPIRATION FOR INTERIOR DESIGN PROFESSIONALS



BESPOKE KITCHENS
MATTHEW HILTON
ECO-FRIENDLY LIGHTING
COMPACT SOFAS
FEES AND FINANCE



Flights of fancy

Get the bug with the new season's wallpapers

Viva España

IBERIAN BRILLIANCE COMES TO BRITAIN IN THE FORM OF CONVERSATIONAL SPANISH 2, AN EXHIBITION OF YOUNG DESIGNERS WHO REALLY HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY

Keenness to embrace the new epitomises modern Spain and has been key to the revitalisation of Spanish industry. It's an enthusiasm that's taking on new momentum, with manufacturers becoming proactive in seeking out fresh design talent and developing exciting collaborations.

During the London Design Festival the Noel Hennessy showroom will be home to Conversational Spanish 2 (14-24 September), an exhibition curated by Héctor Serrano highlighting products from companies that are embracing the new. Serrano, a London resident, is known for his use of humble materials. His Superpatata lamp, made of a latex balloon filled with salt and a light bulb, ended up in the catalogue of ultra-

directional Dutch design group Droog. He still designs for Spanish companies and is excited by the way that product design and production are joining hands in Spain. 'Whereas Britain produces designers but has a small manufacturing industry, in Spain both industries are booming,' he says. The result is a wave of unconventional products combining commercial and cultural success.

Serrano has enveloped the exhibition space in blue, yellow, red and black stripes created with electrical tape – a fittingly industrial material. The exhibits, which are in colours that match the stripes, include three of Serrano's own. Each, in its own way, exemplifies this attitude of experimental collaboration. www.londondesignfestival.com

ARTURO ALVAREZ

The latest lighting design by Héctor Serrano (right) was produced by Arturo Alvarez, a hand-made lighting company in Santiago de Compostela with an interest in the innovative use of materials such as silicone and polycarbonate. The company produces meticulously finished lighting products in limited series. Serrano's V lamp in black polycarbonate conjoined 'V' shapes (pictured) is inspired by a flexi-comb hair accessory and makes good use of Arturo Alvarez's manufacturing capabilities, marking the beginning of what promises to be a fruitful run of collaborations with contemporary designers. www.arturo-alvarez.com



ABR

ABR is a young company determined not to be restricted to a narrow range of products and keen to foster relations with designers with eccentric ideas. To this end the company does not manufacture anything, instead choosing the most appropriate producers for each individual project. A small catalogue includes items as diverse as felt room dividers, metal tables and a memory stick in the shape of the Madonna designed by Luis Eslava. This epitomises the company's belief that the design world needs a sense of humour. The buttocks of Michelangelo's David were the inspiration for Cuí is Cool, a versatile seat designed by Ramón Ubeda (above) and Otto Canals. The lightweight stool is made from expanded polystyrene – a more sturdy version of polystyrene. www.abrproduccion.com



MOBLES114

Mobles114 was founded in Barcelona in 1973. The firm's directors, industrial designers JM Massana and JM Tremoleda, encouraged a philosophy based on both the corporate and human aspects of design. Martin Azúa (right) and Gerard Moliné (right, below), whose eclectic design collaborations include clothing and ceramics which demonstrate their unusual take on nature, have come up with the elegantly futuristic Flod stool (pictured). A sculptural and ergonomic bar stool in hollow polythylene with a carved foot rest, Flod, was launched in Milan in April. www.mobles114.com



ARTURO ALVAREZ

The latest lighting design by Héctor Serrano (right) was produced by Arturo Alvarez, a hand-made lighting company in Santiago de Compostela with an interest in the innovative use of materials such as silicone and polycarbonate. The company produces meticulously finished lighting products in limited series. Serrano's V lamp in black polycarbonate conjoined 'V' shapes (pictured) is inspired by a flexi-comb hair accessory and makes good use of Arturo Alvarez's manufacturing capabilities, marking the beginning of what promises to be a fruitful run of collaborations with contemporary designers. www.arturo-alvarez.com



PUNTMOBLES

Puntmobles was founded in Valencia by a group of designers keen to develop new products in the fields of domestic, contract and professional furniture. Dedal stool (pictured) designed by Héctor Serrano and Emili Padrós (above, right) may remind a UK audience of a 20th-century modernist accessory. The lightweight, stackable stool is made of a soft, rounded seat which adapts to the user's weight. The Barcelona design is the Flying Carpet, a seating product. www.puntmobles.com



ES114

ES114 was founded in Barcelona in 1973. The firm's directors, architects JM Massana and JM Tremoleda, encouraged a design philosophy based on both the corporate and human aspects of design. Aziza (right) and Gerard Moliné (right, below), whose eclectic collaborations include clothing and ceramics which demonstrate a sensual take on nature, have come up with the elegantly futuristic stool (pictured). A sculptural and ergonomical bar stool in hollow polycarbonate with a carved foot rest, Flod, was launched in Milan in April. www.mobles114.com



MARTI GUIXÉ

Martí Guixé is one of Spain's new breed of up-and-coming designers and one of the five founders of Barcelona-based B-Sign. The firm's first products helped win it a best business idea award. Its products included a wall-mounted organiser for the bathroom, and a mirror (pictured with reflected foliage) which is unbreakable. www.b-sign.es





PUNTMOBLES

Puntmobles was founded in Valencia in 1980 by a group of designers keen to develop innovative projects in the fields of domestic, contract and project furnishings. The Dedal stool (pictured) designed by Ana Mir (above, left) and Emili Padrós (above, right) under the name Emiliàna may remind a UK audience of a Dalek more than a sewing accessory. The lightweight, stackable stool comes with a soft, rounded seat which adapts to the shape of the sitter. The Barcelona design duo were also responsible for the Flying Carpet, a seat/rug produced by Nanimarquina. www.puntmobles.com



METALARTE

Under the direction of the founder's grandson Román Riera, the company has fostered relations with a new breed of designers to come up with innovative lighting products such as Serrano's Top Secret (2001), his Waterproof (2004), and Inout (2003) by Ramón Ubeda and Otto Canalda, Herme Ciscar (above) and Mónica García (top) collaborated with Metalarte to produce the Campanela lamp (pictured), a ceramic cone held up by a rope featuring knots resembling those used by climbers. www.metalarte.com



MARTÍ GUIXÉ

Martí Guixé is one of Spain's new breed of up-and-coming designers and one of the five founders of Barcelona-based B-Sign. The design firm's first products helped win it a best business ideas award and included a wall-mounted organiser for the bathroom, and the Ego mirror (pictured with reflected foliage) which is unbreakable and can be hooked up wherever you feel the need to primp your appearance. www.b-sign.es



ROGER ARQUER

Barcelona-born designer Roger Arquer currently has his creative home in London after stints working as a designer in the US, at Karim Rashid's practice, and Switzerland with Alfredo Häberli. Arquer came to London to study for an MA in design products at the Royal College of Art, completing his degree there in 2005. His new project Fish Bowls will be shown at this exhibition. Five of the 15 different fishbowls will be on display, each piece examines a topic or suggests a solution to an issue, creating 'a family picture that becomes the representation of three-dimensional brainstorming'. www.rogerarquer.com

