LEGENDS at Work

Yamamoto takes Holon – Flos turns 50
Giugiaro drives on – Viñoly builds big
Herman Miller rediscovers its DNA
Made from a single sheet of aluminum, the Pressed chair by Italian designer Harry Thaler for Nils Holger Moormann takes furniture recyclability to a new level. It’s stackable, suitable for outdoors, and comes in a variety of powder-coated color options.

The Aside bench prototype, a thesis project by ECAL student Laurène Barjhoux, reinterprets everyday adjustable blinds in the workplace. When fully open, you can see who’s inside; shut halfway, figures appear as silhouettes.

The Minuscule chair by Cecilie Manz for Fritz Hansen was inspired by smooth pebbles found on the beach. Its outer upholstered shell comes in two tones of gray with a leather detail, and the inside of the shell comes in numerous colors.

Considering the super-low price point of Blu Dot’s Stash desk—made from ash and MDF in two color combinations—design afficionados should be pleased to find the drawer can be assembled on either the left or right side.

The aptly named Rack by Munich-based F/P Design for Schönbuch has been updated with a square version of its coatrack and umbrella stand. It also includes powder-coated colors such as coral (shown here).

The Wilmer T chair by Stockholm-based Stefan Borselius for Blå Station bends to the will of its Gen-Y users: a swivel shelf on top is fitting for laptops or mobile devices; a bottom one, for ever-present drinks or paperwork. The frame, made from molded polyurethane foam, is available in chrome or black-lacquered steel.

Also designed to mitigate privacy in a post-open-plan workspace, Sedus’s Viswall by German firm Speziell comes with two rotatable panels in each modular unit. With an aluminum base and 12 textile-covered monochrome color options, it can be positioned in a row or staggered to create custom, freestanding spaces.

Designer Dick van Hoff has created a safe space for both tablets and magazines with the Crossdock for Functionals. It has a walnut base and a powder-coated aluminum iPad dock.
GOODBYE, CUBICLES

With Bernhardt Design’s help, Ini Archibong configured a limber task table for open-minded office plans.

From 2005 to 2010, the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, California, and contract furniture juggernaut Bernhardt Design ran a design-and-production studio in which Bernhardt’s CEO Jerry Helling and design director Todd Campbell would periodically visit the campus to teach students about the market. Each semester, the top projects would enter production and later get presented at New York’s ICFF. (The selections from the final studio, including Jessica Pell’s marshmallow-like Apoll ottomans, will be presented in May.) Ini Archibong, 28, who took the course in fall 2009 and graduated this year, describes it this way: “We learned what the realistic limits are, what the standards are as far as building and testing and meeting safety regulations, and what the climate is in the task-furniture arena.”

Archibong’s final design—which debuted at ICFF last year—is the sinuous, foldable, Art Nouveau–inspired Serif task table (above), which comes in 71 wood-veneer and laminate finishes and two polished-aluminum leg configurations. Also included: an optional modesty panel for under-table privacy. Developed with fellow students John Phillips, 29, who graduated in fall 2010, and Stephanie Stalker, 27, who graduated last year, the rectangular table is fitting for an array of floor plans. “Offices nowadays are no longer cubic factories; there’s a homey feeling,” Archibong says. “Our goal was to blur the line of workspace and relaxing space.”—SPENCER BAILEY

Don’t mistake Jörg Schellmann’s new coatrack for a Sol Lewitt sculpture. Using nothing but powder-coated tube steel and inspired by the shape of gym lockers, Schellmann has created a radially-simple yet functional object.

Italian designer Fabio Bortolani’s Continuum bar stool for Lapalma is made from a single piece of satin-finished stainless steel. Curved in an endless loop, the frame creates a natural footrest where the top and bottom meet.

Pearson Lloyd Design maintained the sculptural silhouette of Coalesse’s Lex swiveling bar stool by placing the height-adjustment button under the seat, while grounding the rest of it with a brushed-chrome base plate.

Originally designed in 1968 by Swedish godfathers Börje Lindau and Bo Lindekrantz, the Lammhults S70 series is back as the new S70-5 sofa. It comes in chromium-plated and powder-coated steel frame options.

Swedese’s Spin collection of stackable ash stools, designed by Staffan Holm, gets its name from its legs, which extend from the circular seat as if rotating around a centrifugal force.

A lighthearted and sculptural solution to hallway clutter, London-based designer Gareth Neal morphed six different hooks into circles, ovals, and triangles for the Marvin coat rack, his second piece for U.K. brand SCP.
Yota Kakuda's 2012 Mortaise collection for Ligne Roset includes a coffee table, shelves, and a night table, all suitable for home or work. Consistent with the history of Japanese furniture, it's lightweight, modular, and functional.

The new upholstered version of Herman Miller's 2009 Setu family of chairs, designed by Berlin-based Studio 7.5, includes the Kinematic Spine, a padded polypropylene material that bends and flexes organically with minimal customization.

The Graph chair by German studio Jehs + Laub for Wilkhahn gets its radical new form by horizontally and vertically cutting through a seat shell. It's then reassembled to achieve 3-D flexibility without any additional mechanics.

Offecct's O2asis Green Divider brings nature into an office environment with ease. The white flowerpot by Swedish designer Louise Hederström comes with castors that emulate vine climbers, and it even looks great without any plants at all.

Patrick Norguet riffs on the Duo chair he designed last year for Swedish brand Offecct with a smaller version called Duo Wood. The new seat has a foam-covered, laminated-wood frame and white-pigmented oak legs.

Konstantin Grcic's tubular steel and recyclable polypropylene Pro 4-Leg chair for Flötotto combines the freedom of a stool with an S-shape to alleviate back strain.