


THE JOURNAL

THE REPORT: TOP DRAWER FURNITURE

JULY 16, 2013

◀ PREVIOUS STORY

INSIDE THIS WEEK'S ISSUE ▾ 

NEXT STORY ▶



THREAD WRAPPING MACHINE BENCH

There is something charmingly naive and W Heath Robinson-esque about the Thread Wrapping Machine that Royal College of Art graduate Mr Anton Alvarez built to construct his furniture. Imagine a foot-operated pair of 1m-wide rings, threaded up with glue-dipped yarn, spinning around, wrapping timber with coloured thread as it's passed back and forth. If you can't, then think about those machines at airports that wrap luggage and imagine that the clear wrap has been replaced with coloured viscose thread. Mr Alvarez's machine constructs furniture without the need for screws or nails as they are entirely held together by the yarn.

No two pieces are alike, and you can't get more limited-edition than that.

libbysellers.com

BY MR ANTON ALVAREZ

Design Miami/ describes itself as a global forum for design. It is a platform for both historically important and contemporary pieces. Last month, galleries from across the globe assembled for the design show's sister event in Basel to display their precious wares in the brand-new Herzog & de Meuron-designed halls of the Messe Basel.

Jetting in to view what was on offer - which included Maison des Jours Meilleurs, a 1956 prefabricated house by Mr Jean Prouvé (restored, shipped and then assembled inside the fairgrounds by Galerie Patrick Seguin) that sold within minutes - were collectors, industry chiefs, designers, architects and enthusiasts. Notable attendees included Mr Leonardo DiCaprio, Mr Peter Brant, Ms Stephanie Seymour, Mr Roman Abramovich and Mr Kanye West. The latter, well known to be a fashion, architect and design buff, provided an impromptu "listening party" for his new album *Yeezus*, complete with chairs by Mr Rick Owens, whose limited-edition design work was shown by Salon 94.

The galleries that make up the fair fall into two camps: those that deal in historical design - mainly 20th-century work from the likes of Messrs Prouvé, Jean Royère, Carlo Mollino, Alvar Aalto, Jean-Michel Frank, Mr Giò Ponti and Ms Eileen Gray - and those that "edit" works from contemporary talent and produce limited-edition collections usually comprising no more than 12 pieces.

Design Miami/, which runs alongside the Art Basel fair, also provides satellite exhibitions, special commissions and exposure opportunities for young talent. It is peppered with talks, tours and openings in and around the city - and plenty of dinners and parties. This year's even included a fire station's 20th birthday celebration. Yes, a fire station, albeit one of the first completed buildings by architect Ms Zaha Hadid, just minutes over the border in Germany at Vitra Campus.

Click through the slides, *above*, to see eight designs that really caught our attention.

The advertisement is a rectangular box with a light beige background. At the top, the words "Style Advisor" are written in a large, elegant, black cursive script. Below the text is a black and white line drawing of a man in a suit sitting at a desk, talking on a telephone. A speech bubble from the phone shows a woman's face. To the right of the man is a tall, thin bookshelf. Below the illustration, the text "GET EXPERT STYLE AND FIT ADVICE" is written in a small, black, sans-serif font. At the bottom of the box is a white rectangular button with the text "FIND OUT MORE" in a black, sans-serif font.

Style Advisor

GET EXPERT STYLE AND FIT ADVICE

FIND OUT MORE