

THE WORLD'S LEADING HOMES MAGAZINE

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ELLE DECORATION

THE TREND REPORT

Your 24-page guide to the style-defining trends of 2012-13

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TAKE A SEAT

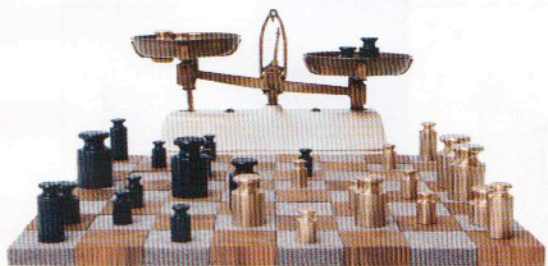
Young Czech designer Jan Plechac has been making waves in the design world with his 'Icons' chair series. He's taken some of the most recognisable classics – including Josef Hoffmann's 1910 'Kubus' chair, the 'Red Blue' chair by Gerrit Rietveld (pictured) and Philippe Starck's 'Louis Ghost' chair for Kartell – and transformed them into elegant wire pieces. Almost like 3D line drawings, they're perhaps not as comfortable as the originals, but just as striking (janplechac.com).



FEATHERED FRIENDS

Visit Courts Garden near Holt this summer and discover bird boxes with a difference: they've been turned into an outdoor art gallery. Peek inside each one to see a photograph (pictured) by artists Paul Tecklenberg and Mikey Georgeson, who explore the notion of how gardens recharge the soul. Until September 25 (nationaltrust.org.uk/courtsgarden).

Stop press! Check out the inaugural Unseen international photography fair in Amsterdam. Held in a former gasworks, it provides a platform for new photography by emerging and established talent. September 19-23 (unseenamsterdam.com).



IT'S CHECKMATE

Inspired by a 1944 exhibition at New York's Julien Levy Gallery, where a group of Modernist artists were invited to contribute chess sets, Gallery Libby Sellers is hosting 'Games', a group show on a chess theme. It features beautifully crafted chess sets and games by the likes of Simon Hasan, Paul Kelley and Rolf Sachs (pictured). There'll also be chess tournaments, lectures and a musical score written specially by Hannah Kendall. Until August 18 (libbysellers.com).



TEXT SPEAK

Online retailer All The World's A Page has squeezed entire texts – think classics such as *Ulysses* and *Romeo and Juliet* – onto graphic posters using a microscopic two-point type size. Handily, they also sell magnifying glasses in case you want to read them. Poster, £16; magnifying glass, £6.90 (all-the-worlds-a-page.com).



ABERRANT ARCHITECTURE

Friends and design partners David Chambers (right) and Kevin Haley take a modern approach to their work, operating from locations across London

As with all the best working relationships, David and Kevin started out as friends first. The up-and-coming design duo met at the Royal College of Art while they were both studying for an MA in architecture and interiors. 'It's interesting that we came from different backgrounds: Kevin comes from an interiors perspective and I took a straightforward architecture route. Those

differences are really complementary now that we work together,' explains David.

They set up Aberrant Architecture in 2010, but haven't yet got a permanent studio. They currently work in an open-plan space at Ravensbourne College in Greenwich as part of an 'incubation scheme' for new businesses. 'We're very mobile and meet up all over London with our laptops,' says Kevin. 'On each project one of us will take more of a lead role but we always maintain a conversation.'

So far, their collaborations have included designing a 'Pub' table with Benchmark, a games table that becomes a desk, turning

Old Street bar El Paso into a workspace for freelancers during the day. Next, they're designing an outdoor kitchen for the Spitalfields City Farm and showing work at this year's Venice International Architecture Biennale based on a study of prefabricated primary schools designed by Oscar Niemeyer in Rio de Janeiro. But whatever they're working on, the results always reflect both of their personalities. As Kevin says, 'Together, we can use each other's strengths and weaknesses to get the best outcome. What we have is a friendship as well as a business.'

aberrantarchitecture.com