

Design Inspiration

The world is full of creative people. Here are some of the best inspirational concepts and products we've laid our eyes on in recent times.



Photo by Kai Wai Wong

Pipe Dreams

California-based designer Phan Thao Dang has created a series of corrugated furniture objects from pipes conventionally used to carry waste sewage. Dang was interested in the strength of the pipes, which need to withstand extreme water pressure, temperature changes and chemical degradation from waste. His Pipe Collection features a bench and stool constructed from individual pipes – the bench is constructed from a single, 15-foot ABS pipe, while the stool is crafted from a 10-foot pipe. Both pieces feature a minimalist design, composed of pipes welded together and painted, to create a protective layer between the surface and the natural elements. The end result is structurally sound and lightweight furniture with minimalistic beauty.

For more information about Phan Thao Dang see www.phanthaodang.com

From Sea to Seat

The Sea Me collection by Dutch Designer Nienke Hoogvliet uses an unconventional source to create a furniture collection: seaweed. The collection features a seat made from fabric that has been woven by hand using seaweed yarn, among other items dyed or finished with the algae. The fabric on her deck chair-like seat is created using cellulose extracted from kelp. It has similar properties to the viscose used in synthetic textiles, but with much softer fibres. Hoogvliet also used seaweed to dye the fabric, with different types creating different colours. The collection also includes a side table with a wooden top, using paint made from bladderwrack – a common seaweed found in the Netherlands – and a rug made with algae yarn and coloured with seaweed dye.

See www.nienkehoogvliet.nl for more information about the Sea Me Collection.



Suspended in Motion

Irish artist and designer Sasha Sykes has also looked to the sea for inspiration, with her Gyre screen, recently exhibited by London gallerist Peter Petrou. The screen is constructed from panels of cold cast resin that contain pieces of deep-sea seaweeds brought to the coast of Ireland during Hurricane Ophelia. Sykes accumulated the myriad seaweed species over 18 months, dried and treated the pieces of seaweed as quickly as possible so they didn't lose their shape, and encased them in the resin. The seaweeds appear to swirl across the screen in perpetual motion.

Discover more about Gyre and Sasha Sykes at www.sashasykes.com

Silver Shakers

Canadian Design Studio, Studio Lukas Peet design recently made its first Dutch Design Week appearance, presenting a selection of new works combined with products Peet designed for ANDlight and his original graduation work. We adore his set of cast stainless steel Salt and Pepper Shakers, easily filled from the top through the conical opening accessed by the removal of the conical ball stopper. Once filled, the vessels can disperse crushed salt or pepper through a subtle horizontal slot. With a simple side to side motion and index finger on top of the ball, the vessels dispense their goods in inimitable style. Originally finished in a gloss white (salt) and black (pepper) enamel, the shakers are now available in sterling silver with a white and black pearl to distinguish between salt and pepper. They are 3D printed in PLA, then cast and hand-finished by his father Rudi Peet, a goldsmith and jeweller. For more information on the Salt and Pepper Shakers see www.lukaspeet.com



City Cycling

The Urbanized bicycle, made by the Sofia-based bicycle company of the same name, is a sturdy bike, designed for city environments. It's equipped with features designed to complement an urban lifestyle, including Tannus airless tires, made from a closed-cell polymer foam material, meaning they have no inner tube and are therefore fully puncture-proof, as well as being lightweight. Other features include a strong and grease-free belt drive, a durable and sturdy internal gear hub and weatherproof roller brakes. Best of all, the bike has a specially designed handle attached to the frame that allows the user to easily carry it up and down steps without worrying that the front wheel could turn and leave tyre treads on a clean white shirt. Each of the Urbanized bikes is built by a single person from start to finish, and finished by hand, from the invisible welding to the hand-stitched grips.

For more information about Urbanized see www.urbanizedbikes.com



Shine a Light

Referencing car headlights, light shines from both ends of this anodised aluminium lamp, developed by Toronto-based designer Tom Chung for Danish brand Muuto. Called Beam, the modern-styled lamp shines light from two sources, one in each end of the cylinder, mimicking a single ray of light travelling through a tube. The two-way light means it's possible to light up into a high space and down into a lower space at the same time. Given its dual-ended design and 350-degree rotational base, the lamp can be rotated to a variety of positions and a dimmer switch allows you to change the intensity of both light sources to one of three settings. The Beam lamp is available in aluminium, black, amber and green finishes.

For more information on Tom Chung, see www.tomchung.net or to learn more about the Beam Lamp, see www.muuto.com

