

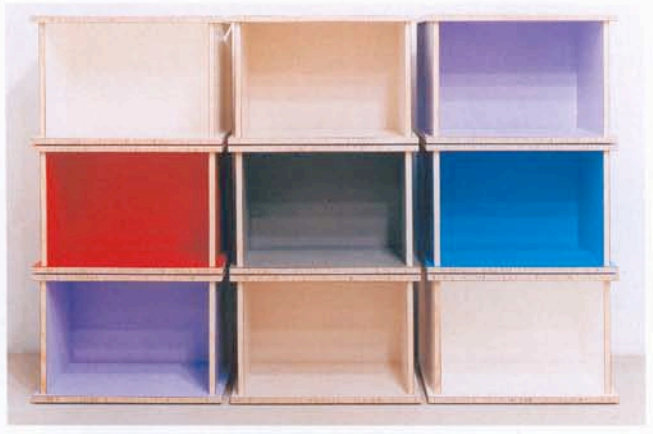


FAIR PLAY

Known as the 'big one before Milan' on the design circuit, the IMM, or International Furniture Fair, in Köln, can tend to feel like hanging out with old friends who you know are holding something back. The talent was therefore mostly to be found in the young designers' hall, inspired by Cologne, and in some of the off-site events of the Passagen; both these sections threw up some sassy new pieces. Matters weren't helped by the move of the modern design hall (Pure) to hall 11, where The Ideal House (which this year put veteran Dieter Rams up against emerging designers Joris Laarman, Stefan Diez and Astrid Krogh) was forced to work around an ugly escalator and was only saved by the innovative work of the young designers.

'SATYR' CHAIR

In an otherwise serious collection predominately in wood and steel, ForUse's 'Satyr' chair stood out as refreshingly cute at ClassiCon. With a low, laid-back seat and bright, bird-like feet, it looks as if it might waddle off if you don't keep an eye on it. 'Satyr' chair, €650, by ForUse, for ClassiCon, tel: 49.89 74 81 33 0 (Germany), www.classicon.com

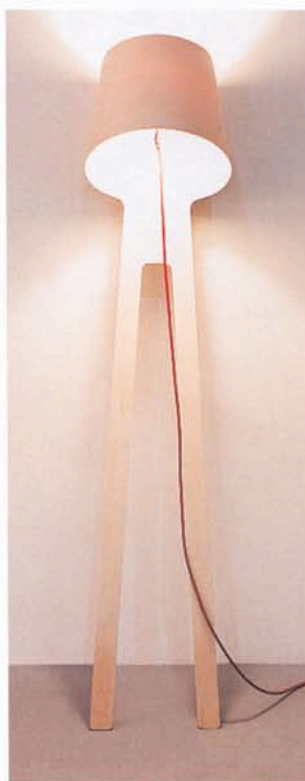


'JULIE 130' SHELVES

Knut Völzke may work under the company name Leise, which means the 'opposite of loud', but his stand filled with brightly coloured coffee tables, containers, side tables, stools, benches and shelves (above) was far from being muted. 'Julie 130' shelves, €243 each, by Knut Völzke, for Leise, tel: 49.69 2199 9801 (Germany), www.leise-leise.com

'COSY' LAMP

The Inspired by Cologne exhibition was definitely worth a visit. Under the auspices of the Kölnmesse and the German Design Council, 36 out of 480 pieces submitted from around the globe were selected for display. One of our favourites was this two-legged lamp by Swiss designer Andreas Saxer. 'Cosy' lamp, by Andreas Saxer, e-mail: andreas.saxer@formsons.ch



'TA14 ANTON' TABLE

E15, the German company famed for its high-quality wood pieces is, along with Wallpaper*, celebrating its tenth birthday. To mark the occasion, it has launched a limited-edition version of Mark Holmes's 'Seam' light in 22-carat gold. If, at €10,000, that's a little over your budget, we suggest you opt for this sleek, relaunched 'Anton' table (above), which clearly marks E15's move to a more demure, less chunky direction, of which we wholeheartedly approve. 'TA14 Anton' table, from €2,670, by Philipp Mainzer, for E15, tel: 49.6171 97 950 (Germany), www.e15.com