

Wallpaper*

*DESIGNINTERIORSFASHIONARTLIFESTYLE



- 4000,000,000 YEARS

**2 GUEST EDITORS
2 COVERS**

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Norwegian company Kebony. It takes the form of a traditional *hjeller*, an A-frame timber structure traditionally built for drying fish and found dotted along the north west coast. Kebony is formed from sustainable timber such as pine, which is treated using biowaste from the sugar industry. The result is touted as being as hard-wearing as teak, environmentally sound and maintenance-free. Gaining a patina with weathering, the wood improves as it ages. And, we predict, StokkeAustad will do much the same. www.stokkeAustad.com; www.kebony.com

Wik & Walsøe

The best-selling range of porcelain designed by Wik & Walsøe features a mythical elf. 'She symbolises dreams, hope and the belief in making the impossible come true,' explains co-founder Ragnhild Wik. In art as in life: the story of the smiley Wik and her twinkly-eyed business partner, Linda Svedal Walsøe, is an inspiring tale of triumph over mundanity.

Just a few years ago, the pair were following different career paths at well-known but rather

process happens outside - over long walks in the Norwegian countryside - Wik & Walsøe take care of every other aspect of the business from their studio, a space which is '100% recycled', having been constructed by themselves using found materials and second-hand furniture. The porcelain is then manufactured in Bangladesh, where they have become local celebrities, working closely with craftsmen to bring their stories to life.

www.wik-walsøe.no

Petter Skogstad

This year didn't get off to a great start for Petter Skogstad. He turned up to exhibit for the first time by himself at the Stockholm Furniture Fair in the Greenhouse area, reserved for students and freelancers, and found himself crammed into an inauspicious corner at the back. Then he got food poisoning from a piece of sushi and spent three days of the fair in bed, leaving his stand unmanned.

Luck might not have been on his side in February, but come April and Salone, Skogstad, a former palace guard for the Norwegian Crown Prince, was determined to have another go. Avoiding the sushi, and armed with a fresh concept and two assistants, he set off by van from Oslo with his collection of prototypes. 'I didn't realise the two people I'd hired didn't have drivers' licences, so I did the two-day journey with just myself at the wheel,' he says. This was where his bad luck ended, though: just one week later he was the toast of the Satellite stands, attracting interest from Cappellini, Cassina, Gandia Blasco and Zanotta.

Most young Satellite exhibitors would regard a visit from even just one of these big-hitters as an enormous success, but Skogstad (who is undertaking an internship at Anderssen Voll) is pragmatic. 'It's been strange. In the past I was a little disorganised and didn't know what to expect, then suddenly everything clicks into place and I find myself talking to Giulio Cappellini for 15 minutes about one of my products. You know you're so close but you have to not get overwhelmed; I'm only 24 and haven't yet finished my masters.'

It's precisely this charming balance of boyish enthusiasm and grown-up looks that informs Skogstad's designs. His mission statement is simple: 'I want to make beautiful products to use in everyday situations.' His work combines a Scandinavian sensibility - a clarity of concept and purity of form - with an almost Japanese approach to development, which is most likely why it seems more grown-up than typical student designs. 'I usually start with a very far-fetched idea and then spend ages refining it until I feel I've reached the very essence of the concept and the product is as functional as it can possibly be,' he elaborates. One example is his 'Hay' sofa, a modular seating system consisting of rectangles that are exactly the same dimensions as Norwegian hay bales, which can be put together in any number of ways.

For 100% Norway, Skogstad is loading his van once again. 'Last year it was just such an honour to be included in the show; this year I want to be more professional,' he says. 'I'm here not just to introduce myself, but to build up my career, step by step.' With such a good portfolio and wise head, so long as he stays away from the sashimi, we're confident his journey to success won't be a long one. ✨ www.peterskogstad.com

MAGIC BOXES

Above, lovers of folklore Ragnhild Wik and Linda Svedal Walsøe (right) in her father's factory, Walsøe Mekaniske Verksted. Walsøe is holding a design from the popular 'Elfin' collection

NORTHERN LIGHT

Right, Petter Skogstad with his lacquered-metal floor lamp-cum-side table 'Disko' and the 'Hay' modular sofa, at DogA, the Norwegian Centre for Design and Architecture, in Oslo

corporate Norwegian companies. Long-term friends who had met studying fashion design at Esmod International, one day they decided that life was too short for the dull side of product development. They ditched the profitable day jobs and risked everything to follow their dream and set up a porcelain design business.

Wik & Walsøe was established as a new business in Fredrikstad's old town in 2006. They launched their first collection at the 100% Norway exhibition in London the following year, and international success followed.

The pair share values concerning respect for nature and the environment, as well as improving social relationships. Spinning yarns is as integral to their product line as firing porcelain, with Norwegian folklore prevalent in their newest collection of vases. Although most of the design

