

KONFEKT

The Magazine for Sharp Dressing, Drinking, Dining, Travel & Design.



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ALL WRAPPED UP
Josephine wears Celine dress and Van Cleef & Arpels jewellery

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A rowanberry apéro in Arlberg



Glowing ideas for a successful season. KONFEKT is an elegant title by the creators of MONOCLE

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WHITTLE EUROPA
Crafting 'krippenfiguren' in Saxony



Craft workers

With more than a hint of the handmade, our round-up of makers setting the bar for finely honed objects includes a storied toy industry, slow furniture and a designer going back to basics. And if you're after a little colour, look no further.

ROCK OF AGES

Holz Findeisen

André Findeisen discovered wood-carving through the work of Sam Maloof. It was after Findeisen received the US designer's book as a gift that he began to experiment with the craft at the University for Sustainable Development in Eberswalde, where he studied landscape and nature conservation.

After graduating he began to hone his skills as a wood sculptor and applied his talents to creating a modern take on the rocking chair. His designs reflect years spent finessing his formula: a perfect centre of gravity, seat length, headrest and runner radius—all meticulously calculated.



Findeisen's studio, in a former paper factory in northeast Berlin, also produces lamps, beds and dining tables. "I work alone without computerised machinery, so one chair takes me about 60 hours to produce," he says. For his customers, it's worth the wait for a tailor-made piece that's built to last. — MR holz-findeisen.de

COSY COLLABORATION

KVADRAT

Danish brand Kvadrat has a long-standing collaboration with Raf Simons that combines the Danish brand's high-quality textiles with the Belgian designer's refined elegance. Their new blanket will see you through the winter with its cashmere-merino mix. This dark-green shade wouldn't feel out of place in a Scandinavian log cabin—or a cosy alpine lodge. — CJ

kvadrat.dk



RAISE A GLASS

Bodo Sperlein x Lobmeyr

For Bodo Sperlein's second collaboration with Lobmeyr, a glass-maker founded in Vienna in 1829, the London-based designer has created a series of engraved mouth-blown glasses inspired by historic silk weaving techniques. — JMA

Why did you pursue a collaboration with Lobmeyr for the second time? They have the tools and master craftsmen you look for in vain elsewhere and a great understanding of my designs. Though their glass is very well known, the lighting sector is even more important historically. You'll find Lobmeyr chandeliers from the Hall of Mirrors in Versailles to the Metropolitan Opera in New York.

What does the Moiré theme express? Moiré silk has something pompous about it and I'm interested in interpreting things that are somewhat out of time. Moiré in French means "to water"—a technique used on silk to create a wavy pattern similar to wood texture.

Why did you use Lobmeyr's 'Alpha' glass? It was designed in 1952 by Hans Harald Rath, grandfather of Lobmeyr owners Leonid, Andreas and Johannes Rath. It is a mouth-blown, gauzy muslin glass that is the perfect canvas for the Moiré series.

What inspired you to create the series? I wanted to bring the textile onto the glass, its lightness; and I find the shadow play of the series very beautiful.

Your designs always show a strong connection to craftsmanship. In times of digitalisation, it is important for me to feed the old crafts with innovations. Lasercutting, for example, was acclaimed for a while. But how much more alive is handcrafted marquetry? The irregularities are what make it beautiful.

bodosperein.com

NICE LITTLE URNER

Valeria Vasi

Combining geometric shapes and glossy finishes, Barcelona-based designer Valeria Vasi's creations are at once functional and sculptural. Handcrafted by Catalonian artisans, her vacuum vase experiments with volume and void to create a simple, minimalist piece. "My work is made with love and care because the production is so small," says Vasi. Influenced by the Japanese craft world, she started out with ceramic forms before moving into blown glass and wood. — CJ valerivasi.com

PHOTOGRAPHS: ELOU ELLIEN; BODODO WESINGER; VASI: IAN; FROM THE MIRROR: JAMES BEPPE



WOODEN HEART

NICOLENE VAN DER WALT

A few years ago, Berlin-based, South African-born artist and designer Nicolené van der Walt decided to take a hands-on approach to her work and signed up for a traditional German apprenticeship in carpentry.

"For me, it was amazing to see that you could be both a designer and a woodworker," she says. "That you did not have to separate these two things."

With the practical skills under her belt, she launched her own brand, which sells solid-wood pieces handcrafted in her Neukölln workshop, and later became the driving force behind female design collective Matter of Course, featuring 11 women who "operate in the dynamic intersection of design, art and handcraft".

A self-confessed perfectionist, Van der Walt has always been enamoured by the precise control she can exert over wooden forms. Using lumber sourced from sustainably managed forests in Germany, she produces one-off and small-batch household items, from chunky chopping boards to smooth coat hooks. We love her quirky cake stand collection crafted from ash (*pictured*). "If you go to the effort of making something, make it the best it can possibly be," she says. — RJ nicolenevanderwalt.com



BLOCKEN SPIEL

Holzspielwaren Ebert

From trains to traditional building kits, the toys at Erzgebirgische Holzspielwaren Ebert are crafted from locally sourced, sustainable beech wood and made to last. "Our building kits are made to be passed on to the next generation," says employee Andrea Köhler, who is part of a tight-knit team of 10 that still works in the small town of Blumenau in Germany's Saxon Ore Mountains (for more about region's woodworking traditions, see page 128). — MR holzspiel-ebert.de



COLOUR ME GLAD

ANNA VON MANGOLDT

Anna von Mangoldt realised that she had a penchant for colour when she was five. She studied in the UK and, after a stint importing British paint for the German market, she launched her first collection aged 25. According to von Mangoldt, different cultures have different customs and hue preferences and, as a colour fanatic, she wanted to cater to Germany's. She tells us about the art of consulting, how she makes high quality paint and why it's worth investing in colour. — MR

Tell me about the origins of Anna von Mangoldt.

It was during my studies in the UK that I met artist and paint designer Anne Sloane. I learnt from her and, after I went back to Germany, started selling her paints there. I repainted my parents' house (in North Rhine-Westphalia) using her products and then my friends started asking me for colour consultations too. But Anna's paint gives never quite fitted my German customers' wishes and that's when I realised that I should start mixing my own. I launched Anna von Mangoldt in 2010.

Why should we invest in paint?

Our paints are very high quality, which makes them expensive. Not everyone wants to invest in paint but it's worth it. We produce locally and source all our supplies exclusively from Germany. The environment is a top priority. We only start mixing once we get an order in so we hardly produce any waste.

What advice would you give to someone repainting their home?

Take your time. People tend to hurry and simply choose white instead of thinking about what colours are important to them. Colours influence our wellbeing so we should consider what that entails.

annavonmangoldt.com





WOODEN HEART
**NICOLENE
VAN DER
WALT**

A few years ago, Berlin-based, South African-born artist and designer Nicolene van der Walt decided to take a hands-on approach to her work and signed up for a traditional German apprenticeship in carpentry. “For me, it was amazing to see that you could be both a designer and a woodworker,” she says. “That you did not have to separate these two things.”

With the practical skills under her belt, she launched her own brand, which sells solid-oak pieces handcrafted in her Neukölln workshop, and later became the driving force behind female design collective Matter of Course, featuring 11 women who “operate in the dynamic intersection of design, art and handcraft”.

A self-confessed perfectionist, Van der Walt has always been enamoured by the precise control she can exert over wooden forms. Using lumber sourced from sustainably managed forests in Germany, she produces one-off and small-batch household items, from chunky chopping boards to smooth coat hooks. We love her quirky cake stand collection crafted from ash (*pictured*). “If you go to the effort of making something, make it the best it can possibly be,” she says. ——— **RJ**
nicolenevanderwalt.com

