

# MONUMENT

**KERSTIN THOMPSON, SEAN GODSELL,  
SHELLEY PENN, SHANE MURRAY:**  
PROJECTING THE COOL OF MELBOURNE ARCHITECTURE

**ALSOP + STÖRMER**

**FUTURE SYSTEMS**

**MICHAEL ANASTASSIADES**

**SIR TERENCE CONRAN**

**HUSSEIN CHALAYAN**

**FAT** FASHION ARCHITECTURE TASTE

**RON ARAD**

**INFLATE**

**PROCTER-RIHL**

**+ TOMATO INTERVIEW**



**LONDON'S  
DESIGN  
REVOLUTION**







the stretch of water as a means of undermining the macho posturing of the 240 metre high Canary Wharf building; it's funky — in a highly refined kind of way.

But when it comes to funky design, **INFLATE** is hard to beat. Determined to brighten up life in the post-recession 90s, the four-member group work uniquely in PVC, a product given to economical mass productivity and available in a wide variety of vibrant colours. In their hands it is pushed beyond beach balls and worked into vases, egg cups, chairs, lamps and hand-held mirrors.

**MIKE ANASTASSIADES** also deals in funky object design. But it's a funk which derives its unique frisson from an unlikely combination of modernist rigour and Dada delirium. His set of seven 'occasional tables' beg the Duchampian question: if a table is only occasionally a table, what is it when it's not? The answer, in one instance, is an alarm clock. A simple sheet-metal side table looks nonchalant enough. But when the internal alarm goes off, the slightly-uneven legs send it — and any objects left on its gently concave top — into a frenzy. At weekends, the bedside beast can be covered in a felt 'suit' into which noisy objects can be placed, allowing the frazzled owner to rest in peace. His laminated birch ply Message Cups, once upturned, convey whatever message the last person whispered into them. But if humour is an integral part of Anastassiades' designs, the beauty of the object itself is his driving force. As was evident



Architects **Lifschutz Davidson's** design for the Oxo Tower Restaurant is predicated on not drawing attention to the structure itself, but on maximising uninterrupted views of the city. Floating above the Thames, its double-sided ceiling louvres slowly shift from white during the day to midnight blue at dusk, directing the diners' gaze to the exterior. Incredibly popular, Oxo Tower reveals how keen Londoners are to look at their city.



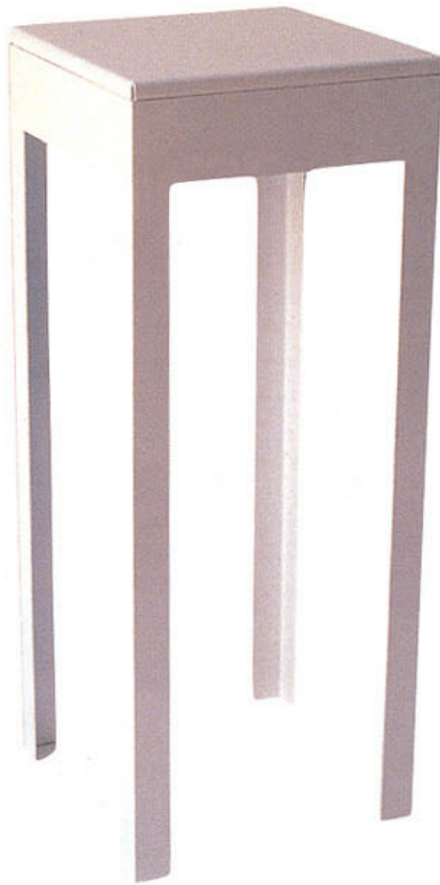
In its adroit mixture of materials with a minimum of fuss — acid-etched glass, rich sycamore, stainless steel and cement — **David Chipperfield's** design for the Wagamama restaurant in the heart of Soho quickly became a classic. From the almost monastic entrance way, customers descend into the din of diners sitting in a cavernous space filled with communal wooden tables and benches.

**FAT** — a cross-disciplinary practice including architects, artists and graphic designers — seeks to enliven contemporary cultural production through the cross-fertilisation of ideas and processes. Chez Garçon (above) is a house within an ex-Baptist chapel which, they say, "indulges a mythical fantasy of rural sophistication". 'Home Ideals' (bottom) is a collaborative project involving artists, photographers, architects and local residents in the elaboration of a temporary installation of 'for sale' signs. Their website (<http://www.fat.co.uk>) is an experimental hotspot.





← Cool on the outside, the household objects of MICHAEL ANASTASSIADES are nonetheless full of humour. The slick laminated birch ply 'Message Cup' is actually a "mobile voice recording and playback device for use within the domestic environment". His 'Occasional Tables' flirt with modular Otherness: one wants to be an alarm clock, while the other muffles noisy objects in its removable felt suit. A plain perspex lightbox uses a standard crown silvered bulb as both source and decoration. Minimalism has rarely been so refined — and never this much fun. →



← When **Ron Arad** does something, he does it all the way. Presenting his newest chair — 'tom vac' — at Milan this year, he left no doubt that they were indeed stackable: over sixty of them formed a shapely tower in the town square, topped with a glowing red light. Made from vacuum-formed and anodised aluminium, they're light-weight and ergonomically correct. The 'uncut' version is a limited edition of untrimmed tom vacs.





**Matthew Hilton's** 'Mercury' sofa and 'Antares' chair.



**Inflate** make funky stuff — yet manage to stay clear of the merely quirky; infusing their inflatable PVC products with wacky humour but functional applications, they create the kind of objects that are simply good to have around: disarmingly cute, while crammed full of smart ideas. The inflatable wall-divider, for instance, is a completely modular, semi-translucent floor-to-ceiling screen which can be collapsed and reinstalled at will.

**Michael Young's** 'Magazine' sofa, audio and TV shelving units.

