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JULY 2008

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WRITER: HUGO MACDONALD



IT'S THE TOPS ▲ Screw-on jar lids

So often, the best design products are the simplest. Dutch designer Jorre van Ast's 'Jar Tops', a highlight, as prototypes, of the 2006 Royal College of Art graduate show in London, are a case in point. Now in production with Dutch kitchenware manufacturer Royal VKB, the screw-on series of lids transforms empty glass jars into kitchen must-haves, such as a jug, a spice cellar and a sugar pot. Understated and environmentally friendly to boot. 'Jar Tops', £14 for a set of five, by Jorre van Ast, for Royal VKB, www.royalvkb.com

TABLE DANCER ▼ Coffee table

Much like the ballroom dance, the 'Foxtrot' coffee table by Kay + Stemmer puts on the perfect floor show. Although made from oak and oak veneer, the table is surprisingly light on its feet, and its cross-slatted undercarriage makes a neat contrast to the simplicity of the plain tabletop and the tapered splaying legs. A truly refined floor partner, 'Foxtrot' is available in a natural oak finish or wenge stain (pictured).

'Foxtrot' coffee table, £615 in wenge, by Kay + Stemmer, for SCP, www.scp.co.uk



HAVING A BALL ▲ Brass pendant lights

Michael Anastassiades' gold-plated brass 'Ball Light' has an early 20th-century French feel. Weighty but delicate, simple yet decorative, the lights make for a dramatic effect when hung in a cluster in a high-ceilinged room. Available with large or small bulbs, a gold-plated rod or silk-braided wire, the lights are rooted to the ceiling with a third brass ball. All can be found at London-based gallery Sigmar. 'Ball Light', £390, by Michael Anastassiades, from Sigmar, tel: 44.20 7751 5801 (UK), www.sigmarlondon.com

