

Boudoir style
Inside the home of
Aubrey Beardsley



The Guardian space

interiors/property/design October 2 1998

At last week's 100% Design, **space** editor Caroline Roux teamed up with taste arbiter and Whistles owner Lucille Lewin and international designer Marc Newson. Together they chose their ten of the best from the many design delights on show. Photographs by Andreas Schmidt

A few of our favourite things

Lucille Lewin was right on time and full of pioneering spirit. "Shall we get going?" she said keenly, hitching up the sleeves of her neat grey cashmere cardigan and clicking the heels of her Prada flats. Marc Newson, the designer known for his curvy Orgone chairs and the interior of Coast in Albermarle Street as well as his waist-length pony tail and surfy good looks, hadn't quite made it yet. His own stand was lying empty, awaiting his new Bucky II chairs allegedly on their way from France.

There's nothing like flooding a hall with a sea of design to see the best stuff floating straight to the top. Both Lucille and Marc, who did arrive along with Bucky II, were drawn to El Ultimo Grito's lively stand complete with scribbled graphics. We met Sue Tahrán there, too, owner of American Retro, on the look out to fill her shop's homeware basement, but already sidetracked into buying a Miss Ramirez chair for her home. "It's incredibly comfortable," she said. "And I think it'll become a collectible."

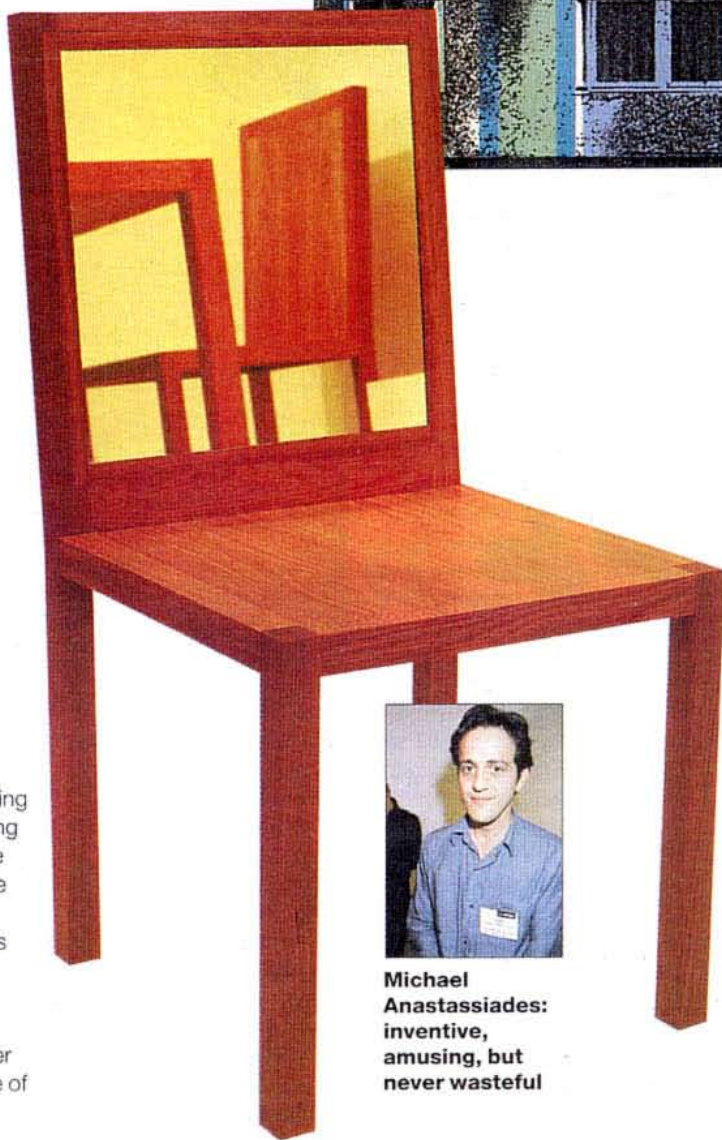
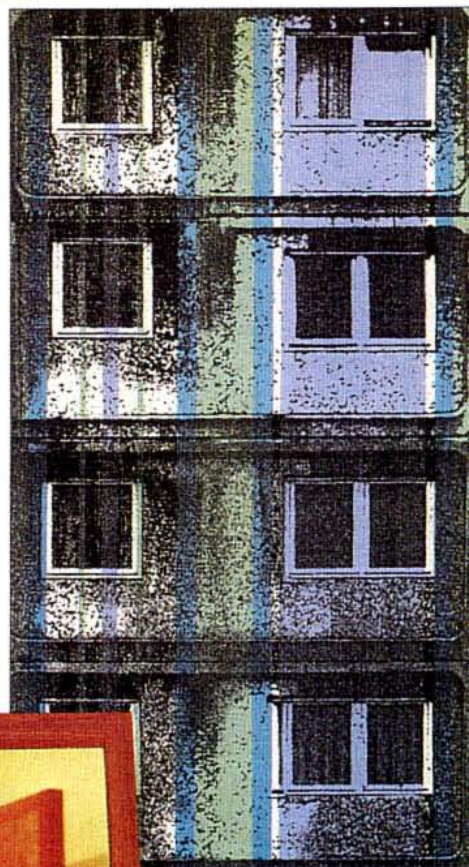
As we trawled the hall, our choices rested increasingly upon a desire for functionality: we still wanted things to look good, but not necessarily trendy. The more surface styling you saw, the less you wanted it. Later that night, a friend who had also visited the show told me he had seen a fabulous black daybed: "You'd really like it," he said. He was right. I guessed he was referring to Eileen Gray's piece, designed in the 'Twenties, now re-editioned by Aram Designs and in no danger of going out of fashion. Proof, if any were needed, that good design stands the test of time.



Lucille Lewin admires Adam Bottomley's AeroFlon chair. "You want to stroke it, like a dog," she said

Mirror Chair by Michael Anastassiades

Michael Anastassiades's Mirror Chair is part of a statuesque dining set. The oak table has a distorting convex mirror at its centre, while the Mirror Chair allows the single diner to have themselves for company at the table. "Michael's work is so witty. He'll make a surprise out of anything," said Lucille. "But there's nothing wasteful about it. It's never clever or extraordinary just for the sake of it. It's all functional, it all works."



Michael Anastassiades: inventive, amusing, but never wasteful