

GALLERY



OUT IS IN!

TEXT SYED ISKANDAR

NOT EVERYONE IN Singapore can enjoy the luxury of a backyard or even a balcony, but if you've always wanted to bring the outdoors in, MAMAGREEN furniture may be the one for you. Using only the highest quality recycled materials, MAMAGREEN has managed to reconcile the disparity between outdoor and indoor furniture to create a product that is both modern yet casual. And if you're fortunate enough to own your own garden, you'd be happy to know that the innovative designs are made with durable outdoor materials that are specially designed to withstand the elements.

MAMAGREEN also definitely does not fall behind when it comes to being eco-friendly. Their efforts to promote a sustainable environment through their recycled teak and stainless steel collections have awarded them the 'Best Exhibit - Garden/Outdoor Category' in *IFFS2009* as well as an honourable mention in the *Furniture Design Award*.

So if you are looking for a new kind of casual, for both outdoors and in, you just might want to consider the collections from MAMAGREEN. The juxtaposition of modernity and warmth in the pieces will definitely weather the test of time.

JOURNEY EAST
15 JOAN ROAD
TEL: 6253 4950
HOURS: MON - SAT, 11AM - 6PM
SUN AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS, 11.30AM - 6PM

LEFT TO RIGHT WENDY CHUA, SEBASTIÁN ALBERDI, GUSTAVO MAGGIO, LUCIANO BERTOLDI AND GABRIEL TAN



GOING THE DISTANCE

THIS MIGHT OFTEN PROVE DIFFICULT FOR PEOPLE LIVING ON DIFFERENT CONTINENTS, BUT FOR THE OUTFOSTOCK DESIGNERS, IT'S ONLY MAKING THEM STRONGER

TEXT HUANG NICKMATUL PHOTOS COURTESY OF OUTFOSTOCK

OUTFOSTOCK, WHICH COMPRISES Gabriel Tan and Wendy Chua from Singapore, Gustavo Maggio from Argentina and Sebastián Alberdi from Spain, first met in Stockholm in 2005 – hence their name! They connected so thoroughly that they continued to keep in touch even as they went their separate ways. After two reunions, they decided that it was time to formalise their relationships and registered Outfostock as a design company. They've recently added a fifth member, Luciano Bertoldi, who's helping them to take care of the business side of things, but the four form the design core of Outfostock.

HC first met Outfostock-er Gabriel when he showed off the tenderly poignant Winter Arrives furniture collection in the PLATFORM exhibition during IFFS 2008. Our impression of their exhibit – and by extension, them – was one of clear-eyed focus and discipline: in the booth design, and in the choice of works to exhibit, as well as in the spare, evocative designs themselves. Our observations seem to have borne out. Today, they are one of the brightest stars in both their respective countries' local design scene as well as the international one, not least because the language of their form and style always seems to be able to reach across cultures – no surprises there!

Outfostock and their work has also been featured in many other publications both locally and internationally, the most notable of which is *Wallpaper*, which selected their *Dunes* screen for their Graduate Directory 2009; and *Elle Décor Spain*, which named them their 'Young Designer of the Year 2008'.

And just three months ago, their *Naked* chair was selected as the winner of the *Furniture Design Award 2009*. Unlike Fabio Novembre's *Him* and *Her* chairs, the only hint of controversy in the *Naked* chair is in its name, which was given to the slim little chair because of its no-frills, let-it-all-hang-out aesthetic.

We admit we were rather taken with the idea of letting it all be completely exposed, so we spoke to Gabriel, who happened to be in Singapore at this time, and were rewarded with completely 'naked' answers filled with plenty of sound bite gems!

TELL US A LITTLE BIT ABOUT YOURSELF!

I am 27 this year, and I come from a family where everyone is artistically inclined in some way. I am currently based in Singapore, which suits me fine. Since I travel now and then for work or work-related exhibitions, I still have opportunities to get re-inspired and have new experiences, which is important for keeping a designer's mind alert and his ideas fresh.

WHY DON'T YOU TELL US ABOUT YOUR TEAMMATES, TOO?

Wendy Chua was my classmate from university and she's a really talented and driven designer who works with me in Singapore. Sebastian Alberdi, 31, is from Barcelona; he is the most experienced of the lot and has been teaching at the European Institute of Design for some time. Gustavo Maggio, 29, is from Buenos Aires and he is really gifted technically in terms of computer skills and manual model making. Last year we recruited Luciano Bertoldi, 27, from Barcelona, to handle business development and client servicing so that the rest of us can focus on design more.



RIGHT THE AWARD-WINNING NAKED CHAIR