

SINGAPORE SLING

LIKE PROMOSEDIA IN ITALY, THE INTERNATIONAL FURNITURE FAIR SINGAPORE IS RUN BY THE LOCAL INDUSTRY. THIS RESULTS IN A FAIR WITH CHARACTER, VARIETY AND INTIMACY. IT ALSO MEANS A WIDE RANGE OF QUALITY.



PINKER STAND

Designed by Karim Rashid for Pinker, this stand was in eye-catching pink and white.

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pink-pinker.com

Although not as innovative as Promosedia, the IFFS strongly reflects the energy of the emerging regional design sector, especially Singapore. Assisting implementation of these strategies is the Singapore Furniture Industries Council representing 95% of furniture manufacturers in Singapore with the aim of "establishing the Republic as the Asian hub for furniture and design excellence". Having assisted the establishment of Mozaic, a local industry brand in 2008, the last five years have seen 10% market growth.

The 2009 Fair (March 9-12) hosted 471 exhibitors from 33 countries, 30% of them for the first time. There were some extraordinary stands, but it was hard to go past the Pinker stand which radiated pink and white, showcasing the new Pinker range of multi-functional furnishings developed by Karim Rashid (a special guest at the Fair) and local company, Office Planner. Otherwise, Singaporean company,

Air Division, was showing exceptional domestic product.

The satellite shows were particularly fascinating. The Furniture Design Awards, designed to promote emerging designers and network them into the industry, had some outstanding products, often representing a sophisticated blend of modernist and vernacular traditions. Each of the winners merited their awards - Outofstock's 'Naked' chair and Apirat Boonruangthaworn's 'Ripple' table, a contemporary take on the krea, a traditional, multi-functional Thai piece, made from bamboo strips.

The Flip Challenge encouraged student designers to think "outside the box", this year using existing materials from an 'Erpo' chair by Star Fur-

niture Industries. The winning entry was 'Torsion', a twisting bar stool by Nway Yu Win Sein and Lina Fong Mingli from Temasek Polytechnic. A highlight of the Fair was Platform, linking emerging designers with manufacturers. Apart from the 30 designers represented, there was also the 'Best of Platform' from past years. Highlights from this year included Brian Lee's 'Chubby Brothers' compact table (where the four chairs form a part of the table), 'Andre's Pencil Box' (timber pendant lights) by Andre Goh and n-est, a three year-old Singaporean company led by Yao Chin Leng, with its elegant collection of indoor and outdoor furniture

iffs.com.sg

BRIAN LEE

This desk by Brian Lee for SOHK, Hong Kong was shown as part of the Platform program for emerging designers.

Brian Lee

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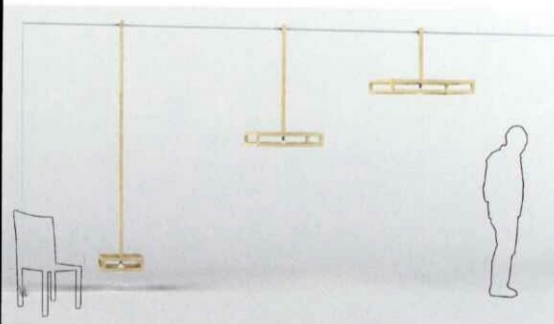


NWAY YU WIN SEIN AND LINA FONG MINGLI

Two students from the Temasek Polytechnic won gold for 'Torsion: The Act of Twisting' at the Flip student challenge.

Nway Yu Win Sein

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ANDRE GOH

'Out of the Box' lighting by Andre Goh from Andre's Pencil Box, award winner at the Platform program for emerging designers.

Andre Goh

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