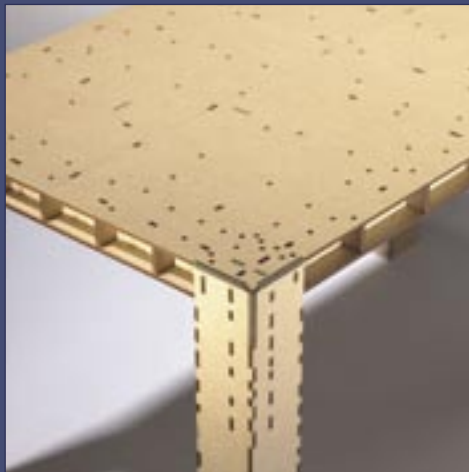
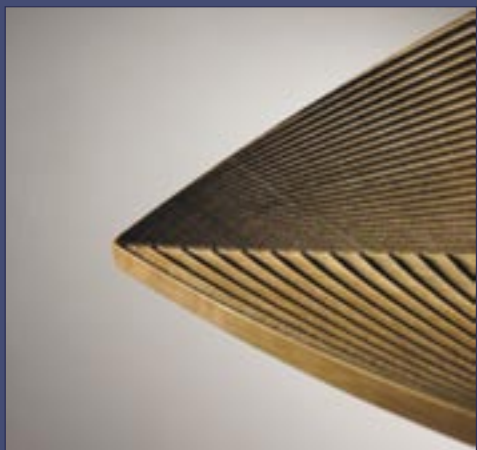


Resene  
'Aviator'

Resene  
'Night Moves'



HOME  
NEW ZEALAND  
+ENTERTAINING



the paint the professionals use

# DESIGN AWARDS 2007

Celebrating the best new products for the home from New Zealand's hottest designers

TEXT by Leanne Moore PHOTOGRAPHY by Toaki Okano @ Croydon Studios JUDGING by Douglas Lloyd Jenkins, Melaina Newport Karaitiana & Jeremy Hansen



WINNER



Resene

Resene  
the paint the professionals use

- Resene 'Woodstock'
- Resene 'Lumberjack'



**SIMON PAUL**  
**'C1' chair**

Like most of his designs, the 'C1' chair grew out of Auckland designer Simon Paul's frustration at not being able to find what he wanted. "Most of my work stems from an inability to find something that I like – or from only being able to find something that I perceive as inadequate," says Paul. "My inspiration often comes from the desire to provide a better solution." Paying homage to Le Corbusier's bent wood chairs, the 'C1' is a modern interpretation of the French Swiss-born architect's early 20th century work. Constructed from solid Victorian ash, it is elegant, simple, original, and also suitable for mass production. "Developing furniture provides a nice balance to the often highly constrained world of architectural design," Paul says. "There are no councils involved in the process – the only limitations are the ones of function." Paul, 35, travelled extensively in Europe after graduating from Unitec's School of Design in 1997, then worked full-time for six years in his father's architectural practice. He set up Ardos Architecture in 2005 after his father's sudden death. At Ardos, he concentrates on a mix of architectural projects and product design, creating works of various size and complexity.



- Resene 'Bright Spark'
- Resene 'Golden Glow'



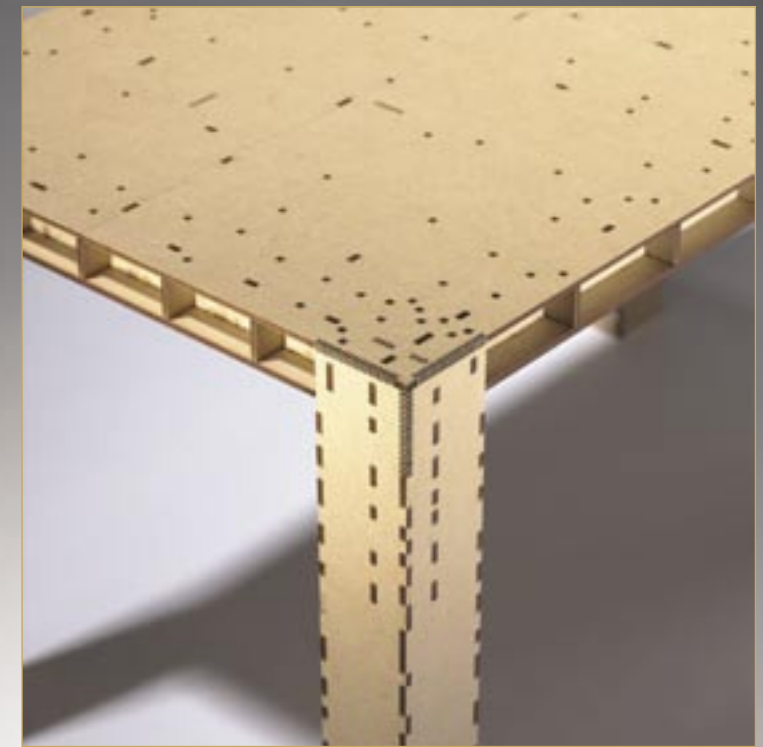
**FINALIST**  
**JONNY MCDONALD**  
**'Constellation' light**

Organic yet rhythmic, there is nothing random about Jonny McDonald's 'Constellation' light. What comes through clearly in his highly original work is his background as a sculptor. His whimsical design plays with the idea of lighting, so important to adding atmosphere to any home. The bulbs in 'Constellation' are caught in twirling, flowing, swirling wire, instead of the usual light socket. Unlit, it is interesting enough as a piece of art; switched on, it is engulfed in a warm glow that challenges our perception of what a light should look like. This is what McDonald wants – he designs his work to engage the viewer, as well as creating something with a functional purpose. "Thoughts, experiences and feelings filter into and influence the design process. It is the expression of emotion through form," he says. McDonald graduated from Unitec's design school last year, majoring in three-dimensional objects. Prior to that he studied ceramic sculpture in Australia. But the 34-year-old doesn't limit himself to household objects – he recently submitted a road bridge design to Waitakere City Council.



**FINALIST**  
**DANIEL EMERY**  
**'Madebydan' side table**

Daniel Emery's flair for using common materials in a fresh way is evident in his Madebydan side table. The 23-year-old graduate of Victoria University's design school drew inspiration from medium-density fibreboard, or MDF, a structurally challenging material usually shunned by the design world. But Emery saw beyond its fragile form (MDF is made from softwood fibres that are pressed into panels with wax and resin at high temperatures), coming up with a clever and complex table design with a deceptively simple exterior. The key to the table's success is its internal lattice structure, created by laser-cut components, that transforms the usually flexible 3mm MDF into a rigid material. Originally from Whangarei, Emery is now based in Wellington, where he combines tutoring at Victoria's design school with designing his own furniture. His lifetime preoccupation with taking things apart to find out how they work has found an outlet in his work. "I'm fascinated by new technology, especially the potential it has to introduce fresh techniques to design and manufacture," he says. Now that he has successfully challenged the preconceptions some of us may have about MDF, Emery is currently creating new versions of his ground-breaking table design.



- Resene 'Laser'
- Resene 'Mantle'





**FINALIST**

**ALEX WEBSTER**

**The 'Marine Bean' and Ottoman**

The 'Marine Bean' is a classic example of how good design can be incorporated in a commercial product. Originally conceived as a comfortable place to sit on a yacht, it is designed and made by Coast New Zealand. London-born, Auckland-based designer Alex Webster came up with the idea after sailing from Curacao to Grand Cayman, and spending most of the long, rough trip on a beanbag covered with a sail bag. But the casual furnishing owes its shape and design to his interest in all aspects of boat design, particularly sail-making. The 'Marine Bean' is made from Sunbrella brand fabric which is well known to sailors as the fabric from which sail covers are made. It is highly resistant to the elements, but has very little stretch. Accordingly, the comfortable shape of the 'Marine Bean' had to be pre-formed – like the shape of a spinnaker – in the cut of its nine panels. "The design process involved trial and error and quite a lot of lounging about in prototypes," says Webster, 39. While still popular on super yachts, the 'Marine Bean' has found its real home ashore in houses, hotels and resorts in New Zealand and around the world. "The guiding principle behind Coast is that we should be able to live as comfortably and as stylishly outdoors as we do indoors," says Webster.

Resene  
'Wave Rider'

Resene  
'Beachcomber'



Resene  
'Tutti Frutti'

Resene  
'Apple Green'



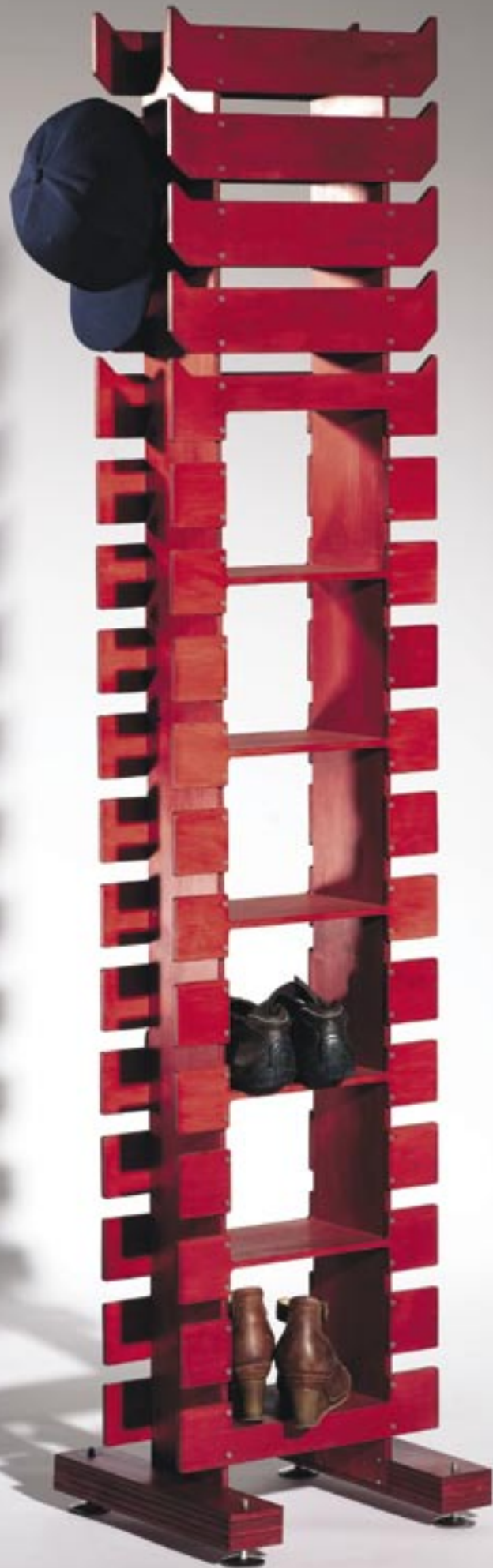
**BEST YOUNG DESIGNER**

**JENNIFER SHUM**  
**'Gobble' apple corer**

Simple yet chic enough to act as a piece of kitchen art, Jennifer Shum's quirky 'Gobble' fruit corer will appeal to its target market – children. Part of her *Fruitilicious* collection (a series of fruit tools that allow youngsters to peel, chop and core their own fruit safely and have fun at the same time), it celebrates the use of good design in an everyday object. If its retro-modern quality reminds you of the aesthetic of the Italian design firm Alessi, that's no accident. "I admire Alessi products very much. In fact, their nifty little objects are what inspired me to become a designer in the first place," says the 23-year-old Aucklander, who graduated from Unitec's design school last year. "I love the way they introduce play and fantasy into household products." Keen to pursue her dream to become a homeware and furniture designer, Shum also likes to leave a light footprint on the planet. The *Fruitilicious* series uses minimal materials for ease of manufacture, and, once the kids grow up, the guilt of throwing these tools away will be assuaged just a little by the knowledge they are made from recyclable plastic.



- Resene 'Get Reddy'
- Resene 'Maxwell Smart'



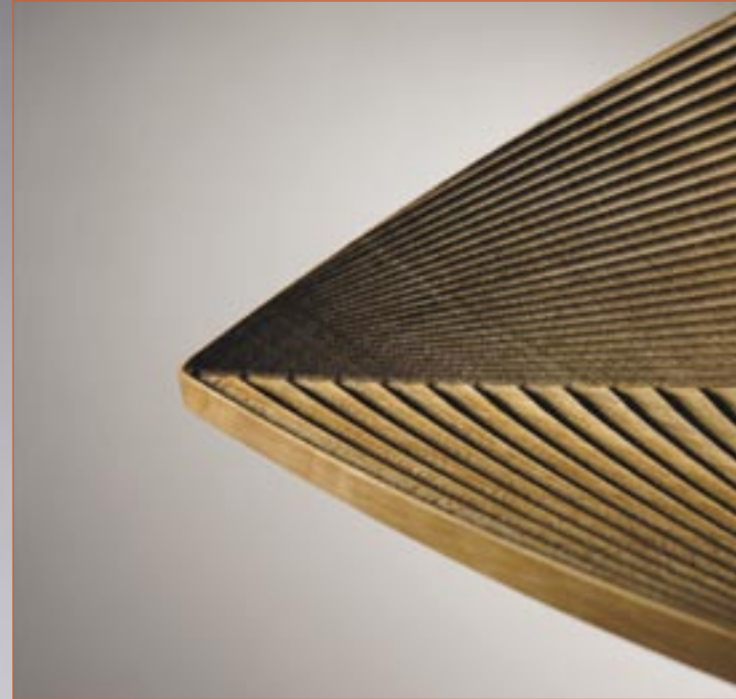
**FINALIST**

**TIM WIGMORE**  
**'Hangup' coat and shoe rack**

The 'Hangup' coat and shoe rack grew out of Tim Wigmore's frustration with piles of footwear and crumpled jackets accumulating at his front door. 'Hangup', made from sustainable plywood with a selection of finishes and colours, is designed to accommodate up to six pairs of shoes and an assortment of coats, hats and scarves. Wigmore, 30, lives in Okato, Taranaki with his partner and fellow designer Rebecca Asquith. After graduating from Unitec in 1998 he moonlighted, designing and producing objects while working in the film industry in Wellington to support his design habit. In 2005, after travelling overseas, Wigmore and Asquith moved to Okato to pursue their passion for designing and making environmentally conscious objects. "The shift to Okato, a seemingly sleepy little coastal village, was a leap of faith. But it has turned out to be a vibrant little community full of artists and artisans," Wigmore says. "The landscape and seascape is constantly changing and very inspirational. Both the community and surroundings are huge influences on my work and being here I feel I am more deeply connected to both."



- Resene 'Tangerine'
- Resene 'Apricot White'



**FINALIST**

**DAVID TRUBRIDGE**  
**'Shell' bowl**

David Trubridge has proved that it's possible to achieve international recognition as a designer while based in provincial New Zealand. From his workshop, office and design studio in Havelock North, Trubridge is attracting growing attention from around the world, with orders for his work coming from the United States, Europe, China, Brazil and Thailand. "The past year has been amazing for me. I need to find a new workspace now that I am employing so many people," says the boat-builder-turned-designer. The 'Shell' bowl is part of a series of elegant dishes he has recently completed. Made of macrocarpa, these open bowls or dishes are carved from solid wood by a CNC router. The whole series, which also includes 'River' and 'Fishes' dishes, is inspired by patterns Trubridge observes in the rivers or seas around him. Chosen for its sustainable quality, the macrocarpa comes from sawmills around the North Island. "It's the only stable, good-looking dry timber available in the thick boards I need," says Trubridge, 56, who is committed to producing furniture that goes easy on the environment.

