


TIME

Style & Design

THE DESIGN 100



THE PEOPLE AND IDEAS BEHIND
TODAY'S MOST INFLUENTIAL DESIGN

SUMMER 2008 SUPPLEMENT TO TIME

PRODUCT DESIGNERS

Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec

IF THERE WERE EVER any doubt that two heads are better than one, take a look at the Bouroullec brothers. Ronan, 36, who once dreamed of playing pro soccer, and Erwan, 32, work at either end of a table in their Paris studio, passing designs back and forth until they hammer out wonders like the stripped-down adjustable Joyn office for Vitra. In high demand since their Lit Clos sleeping cabin—reminiscent of a Breton peasant bed—debuted in 2000, the two have brought their playful creativity to projects for Cappellini, Kartell and Ligne Roset. Their guiding design principle, that products should be adaptable to their customers' lives, is best seen in their popular 2004 Algue system for Vitra. It may look like plastic seaweed, but when snapped together, it transforms into either a wall covering or a room divider in limitless variations. It's doubly good news then that this year the duo debut a chair for Kartell, alongside new Magis Steelwood pieces.



Knitted-fabric Slow Chair for Vitra



Ronan, left, and Erwan Bouroullec in their Paris studio

The Specialists

These six design innovators focus on one medium or area of expertise

Keiichi Tahara

Trained as a photographer, he won raves with a light-sculpture installation at Paris' Denis Diderot University. His Green Plaza opens in Beijing in 2009

Martino Gamper

London-based artist Gamper set out to design 100 chairs in 100 days. The results are seen in his book *100 Chairs in 100 Days in 100 Ways*

Sylvie Fleury

The pools created by this Swiss artist have everything from tongue-in-cheek inscriptions tiled around the edges to underwater music systems

James Jean

Miuccia Prada knows her prints, and when she wants something special, she calls on illustrator Jean to realize her ideas, like the recent fairy print

Kate Hume

Her brightly colored glass is like jewelry for the home. A new collection in amber and silver is inspired by this former stylist's fashion sensibility

Brodie Neill

The swirling forms of this Australian designer's chrome chair, born of Neill's desire to make a seat out of one continuous loop, debut in May