

INTERVIEW Claude Gauvin opens
'Reflets d'Acadiens' in Dieppe S2

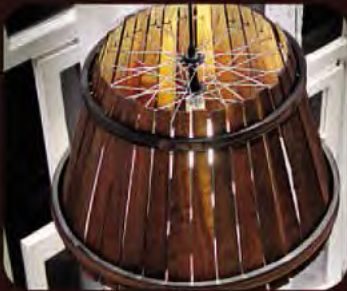
IN THE GALLERIES The Beaverbrook
gets folksy with Norris and Howard S3

salon

At IDS11, Canada's largest
contemporary design fair,

BROTHERS DRESSLER

tops *Judith Mackin's* must-follow
Canadian designers. S4



salonfocus

Intelligent design at IDS11

Judith Mackin travels to Toronto's Interior Design Show 2011 and discovers a wealth of emerging and established Canadian talent and ingenuity.



JUDITH MACKIN
design driven

modesty was their contribution to *Sibling Revelry*, the prestigious event at this year's IDS11 that puts Canada's most creative siblings together to design a space. Along with David and Glenn Dixon, Thien and My Ta Trung, Sarah and Theo Richardson, the twins were invited to design a 600-square-foot space together. And design they did: with sustainable, responsible and sourced materials they've designed and built themselves, including couches, tables, walls, chairs and lighting.

Proof of their commitment to upcycling – converting waste products into new things of better quality or a higher environmental value – and their sense of whimsy, was a wooden bench with supports made from a pair of wooden cobbler's moulds rescued from a northern Ontario fishing camp. According to the brothers, the moulds were dumped at the side of a road with a sign that read "firewood for cottagers."

A more polished piece, the *Onedge* rocker, complements a piece made from a stump salvaged from an abandoned lot. The walnut legs are affixed with salvaged hardware.

A favourite of the Dressler installation was the *Back to the Drafting Board Chaise Lounge*. It was inspired by the classic chaise longue by Le Corbusier and Charlotte Perriand. The rotating adjustment hardware that allows the piece to pivot for a personalized reclining position was salvaged from an old drafting board.

The work of these two trained engineers/woodworkers consistently exhibits a commitment to reduce their footprint on this Earth. Lars and Jason Dressler represent the epitome of pure, socially responsible Canadian design.

Although this year's *Studio North* displayed an impressively high standard in all things functional and beautiful, like with Brothers Dressler the real show-stoppers were the furniture designers and their use of wood. Reused, reclaimed, recycled and upcycled – wood was the material of the moment, alone or paired with steel, acrylic or glass.

The Carol Street Woodworkers (CSW), a collaboration of two founders, Rob Day and Jeremy Kehoe, have been producing thoughtful, well-crafted furniture and cabinetry for the better part of a decade.

I met Day early Saturday morning as he, his wife and two-year-old daughter, Scarlett, were getting ready to greet the masses.

"I didn't start off with the idea of being a designer," Day said. "Actually, I graduated with a history degree."

But Day's real interest was in working with wood. He eventually was hired as a sander for Dakota Jackson in Long Island City. It wasn't quite evident to Day at the time just how "big" Jackson was in the design world. After gaining valuable experience he left New York with his wife and hooked up with his now business partner Jeremy Kehoe.

One of the distinctive elements of the furniture CSW makes is the drawers: they open with a push button. The mechanical parts inside are all solid wood and operate on a system of levers and pivot points. The casework is solid white oak, and the drawers, or draw boxes, are solid birch.

Another striking piece in the CSW exhibit was the coffee table, made from lath pulled from the walls of old houses. "It's essentially trash. We love

something made from nothing," Day said while his daughter enjoyed orange slices from her comfortable seat within the table.

A key feature of great contemporary design is inventiveness married to minimalism. Nicholas Herling managed to achieve this balance perfectly with his bedside table, *Tempus Fugit* (Latin for 'time flies'). Sadly, I never met the elusive Nicholas. He always seemed to be absent whenever I passed his booth. Oddly enough, however, his absence only served to underscore the worth of his creation: it didn't need anyone to explain or sell its merits.

Students of the Ontario College of Art and Design, hoping to catch the eye and interest of a potential manufacturer, showcased some especially impressive prototypes. Two in particular caught my eye.

According to Joseph Grossi, 20, a third-year student, his chair *Sedia*, made from red oak and half-inch clear acrylic, was inspired by two greats – architect and furniture designer Marcel Breuer and German architect Ludwig Mies van der Rohe.

Twenty-two-year-old Francesco Angiulli, a fourth-year industrial design student, garnered a lot of attention with his *Continue Desk* made of bent, multi-curve plywood with a walnut-veneer skin on



Clockwise from top left: 'Letsbrace' (handcrafted from cut-offs from 'Onedge' series); Hang Ups (found wood, scrap material, salvaged hardware and upcycled automotive parts); earrings created from found woods, bark and leftover lap joints, some are embellished with Swarovski crystal; 'Cutlets,' toy made from birch plywood with a hand-rubbed child-safe finish.

PHOTO: BROTHERSDRESSLER.COM

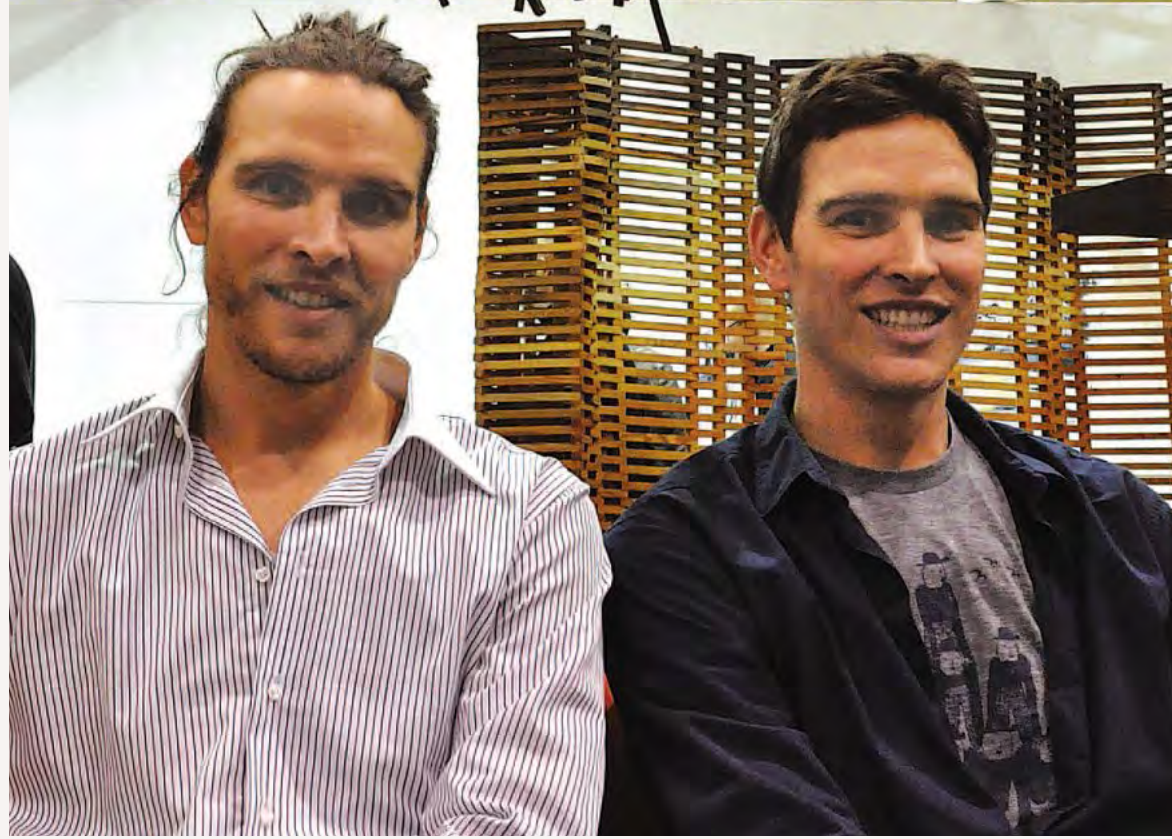


Clockwise from top left: Scarlett, daughter of co-founder of Carol Street Woodworkers Rob Day, sitting in CSW's coffee table, finished with reclaimed lath; close-up of push-button drawers on dresser; overview of CSW's booth; several CSW hanging lamps.

PHOTOS: JUDITH MACKIN



Nicholas Herling's 'Tempus Fugit' with Nixie tube Clock Function (detail left) made from reclaimed lumber and stainless steel. PHOTOS: SUBMITTED



Lars, left, and Jason Dressler in their 600-square-foot exhibition space as part of 'Sibling Revelry' at IDS11. Hanging above them is their signature light 'Branches' - made from walnut, low-voltage halogen lamps and salvaged hardware.

PHOTO: JUDITH MACKIN



Prototype work by students of the Ontario College of Art and Design. 'Sedia,' left, by Joseph Grossi made with red oak and half-inch acrylic. 'The Continue Desk' by Francesco Angiulli, multi-curve plywood with walnut veneer, bent hollow steel tube legs. PHOTO: ROBERT MOORE



'Back to the Drafting Board Chaise Lounge.' Offered on a made-to-order basis, the chaise longue is available in select fabrics with recycled content and can be customized by size and configuration. It is constructed so that at the end of its lifecycle it can be disassembled into its components for re-use or recycle. FSC white oak, wool felt fabric, soy-based foam and drafting board hinge. PHOTO: CONTEMPORIST



'Onedge' rocker with log seating/table by Brothers Dressler. PHOTO: CONTEMPORIST



Jean Willoughby's concrete cabinet with wooden drawers. PHOTO: SUBMITTED

top-five designs

Judith Mackin's IDS11 picks for 2011

1. Beat & Repeat wallpaper by ROLLOUT:

This talented design duo, which this past year moved from Vancouver to set up a second studio in Toronto, recently launched a new wallpaper design *Beat & Repeat*. Anita Modha explains: "It was actually a present from our friend Bandit, who is a stencil artist from Belgium. I was looking at his stencil (on canvas) and thought this would make a great repeat pattern. We photographed Bandit's artwork and showed him what we had come up with as a pattern out of his artwork. The original stencil of a single megaphone with brass knuckles was titled, *Actions Speak Louder...* When we asked him to name this pattern he instantly emailed back the title, *Beat & Repeat*."

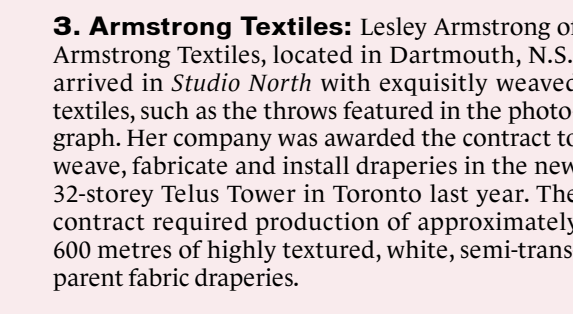


Anita Modha and Jonathan Nodrick, left, of Rollout.ca: 'Beat & Repeat' - stencil by Bandit, layout by ROLLOUT. PHOTO: HUBERT KANG



TOMA 'Bootprint' carpet, left, made of anthracite ECO PLUS new green generation recycled wiper/scraper mat; TOMA 'Inside Out' tile - concrete and fiberglass. PHOTO: TOMA

2. 'Bootprint' carpet and 'Inside Out' tile by TOMA: TOMA is a Montreal-based studio with founder, designer and art director Anne Thomas partnering with Monica Gautier, who has a background in graphic and industrial design. They co-designed the *Inside Out* collection. These mats make a practical and inventive entry piece for any home or office.



Lesley Armstrong of Armstrong Textiles. PHOTO: JUDITH MACKIN



Ingo Maurer's new chandelier. PHOTO: JUDITH MACKIN



Lesley Armstrong of Armstrong Textiles. PHOTO: JUDITH MACKIN



Ingo Maurer's new chandelier. PHOTO: JUDITH MACKIN

5. Renova coloured paper products: Finally, coloured toilet paper! The Portuguese Company Renova makes what they call "the sexiest paper on Earth." Jack Krosinski, director of Renova Canada: "During the two public days we encountered utter madness for the product. It was incredibly satisfying to see Canada react so positively to us."



Renova's 'sexiest paper on Earth.' PHOTO: SUBMITTED, LEFT, JUDITH MACKIN

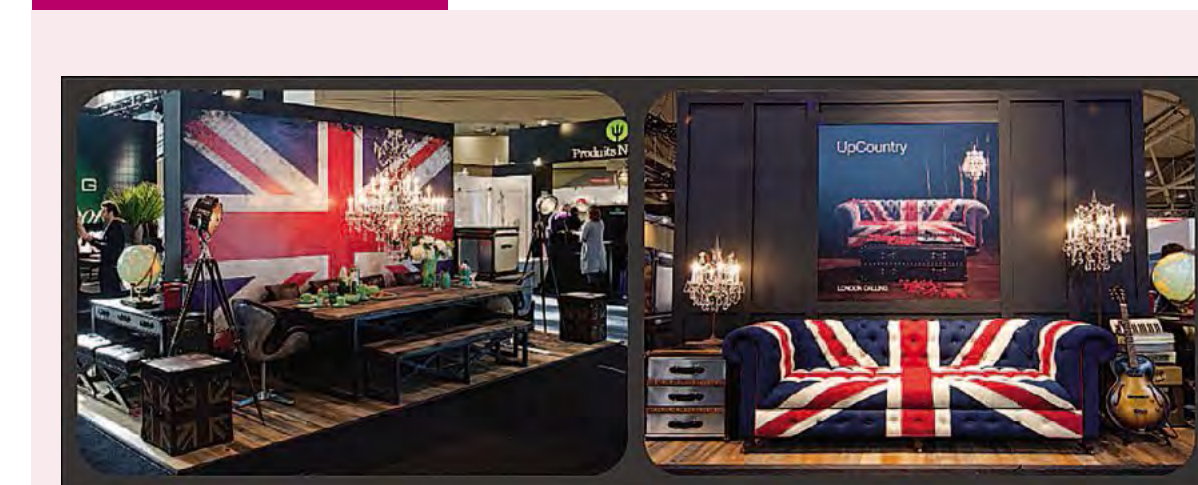
paparazzi



Clockwise from upper left: Suzanne Dimma, editor-in-chief of *House & Home*; IDS11's opening night lineup; Mark Challen, vice-president of communications for *House & Home Media*; designers Steven Sabados and Chris Hyndman, from CBC's 'Steven and Chris'; writer/artist/filmmaker Douglas Coupland with moderator Helen Walters; industrial designers Michael Young, left, with Jean-Marie Massaud; Design Within Reach team Sandra Hansel, left, John Edelman and Christopher Rowe; Kelly Deck, star of HGTV's 'Take it Outside.'

Photos by Robert Moore

best booth



UpCountry (Toronto/Burlington's home furnishing boutique) made a considerable impact with its double-sided booth. More often than not, the couch was photographed with people sitting on it, rather than on its own. This booth, featuring the *Bensington* sofa, part of the new collection 'Halo' by Timothy Oulton, showed Canadians how the Brits 'do design.' The dining table by Axel along with the stunning crystal chandelier stopped viewers in their tracks, but the real question on everyone's mind was how to get their hands on the Union Jack? Answer: It is a wallpaper kit. In a massive trade show full of white, black and chrome, this booth stood out as a vibrant and comfortable reprieve. PHOTO: PAUL CASSELMAN



Brothers Dressler's one-of-a-kind bench pays tribute to the all-but-extinct artistry of the cobbler. PHOTO: CONTEMPORIST