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ness as a heating device thanks to the large surface area available for transmitting warmth. At the time of writing, Laarman is working on the detail of his Bone Chair project, a chair whose statics try to imitate the human skeleton. Absorbing force exerted from the outside and using a skeleton structure as a means for doing this is a subject pursued in automobile research, and this is where Laarman found allies to help him with his idea. Even if the necessity of a shock absorber like those used in car travel does not suggest itself immediately for sitting still on a chair, Laarman's results are still definitely worth looking at. In fact his Bone Chair looks like the discovery of a primeval species in the sitting culture world that was hitherto unknown to us.



Ineke Hans/Country Rock

The Dutch designer **INEKE HANS** is also a Taleteller, armed with a Master's in Furniture Design from the Royal College of Art in London. Her furniture and accessories seem to be not of



Kiki van Eijk/Quilt chair

this world. They are literally fabulous; a comic landscape of a very appealing kind. Everything seems somehow childlike in its proportions – big heads with big eyes, set on squat bodies and making viewers feel sympathy above all. Then we have the **KIKI & JOOST** practise, set up by Kiki van Eijk and Joost van Bleiswijk, two graduates of the Eindhoven Design Academy who have established themselves in the field of reviving historic furniture types – screens, rocking chairs, bureaux and showcases – and shifting them into the present day with complete respect for the Baroque or Biedermeier forms and decoration. And finally there is **TORD BOONTJE**. After studying design in Eindhoven and London, in 1996 he set up his own design practice with his wife, the British glass artist Emma Woffenden. Boontje made his name with the “Transglass” vase series, created in 1997, and with his 1998 Rough and Ready furniture – held together with adhesive tape and lashing straps and made from timber offcuts with



Tord Boontje/Witches' Kitchen

blankets as upholstery. Today Boontje is one thing above all others – a florist. His flowery designs for Kvadrat, Moroso or Habitat are omnipresent; he covers the world with seas of flowers, some lasered from metal, some printed on fabric. Boontje has helped design to vegetate.



Martino Gamper/Sonet Butterfly

But there are Taletellers at work in other places too. **MARTINO GAMPER** of Merano has found his way to London. He took on an extraordinary bet: that he would design one hundred different chairs in one hundred days, and of course he would build them himself. He did not embark on this major project without some start-up material; in fact he dismantled existing chairs, mainly found standard furniture, and rapidly reassembled the material to make new chairs. Gamper simply rewrote a hundred stories in this way. The **DOSHI LEVIEN** practice is also based in London, run by Jonathan Levien and Nipa Doshi. Their work links different cultures. Nipa Doshi is strongly influenced her Indian origins and culture, Levien's thinking bears a Western stamp and is guided by industrial processes. The two of them designed the My Beautiful Backside seating collection for Moroso in 2008. The designers tell us that the idea for this enchanting ensemble, which is in fact driven by a formal language that is new, luxuriant and rich in detail for Western eyes, came from a miniature painting showing a maharani on the floor of her palace, surrounding by a large number of different kinds of cushions an upholstery.



Doshi Levien/My Beautiful Backside

The brothers **FERNANDO AND HUMBERTO CAMPANA** from São Paolo can probably be called South America's most important designers at the present time. To create their unmistakable style – often summed up as “tropical modern” – the Campanas combine everyday objects, usually taken from the lives of poor people in the favelas, to make playful furniture designs that all seem to be full of stories. The materials they use for their designs include plastic hoses or film, untreated timber,

INEKE HANS

- 1 Country Rock rocking chair  
Sober wooden furniture that apparently goes back to basics. At second glance, however, the texture in the wood isn't quite right: artificial and natural woodgrain are used together.
- 2 Fracture furniture  
Lightweight polystyrene pieces that eschew structure but which are wrapped as if in a medical cast with a surprising new polyester plaster material that makes them extremely strong within a few minutes. The polyester bonding gives the group the appearance of being covered in a textile.
- 3 Country Sit and Country Side chairs  
Sober wooden furniture that apparently goes back to basics. At second glance, however, the texture in the wood isn't quite right: artificial and natural woodgrain are used together.



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