

IT TAKES TWO

100% Design... and love is in the air. Completely randomly, the stuff we liked best at Earl's Court was produced by couples. We didn't seek them out. Likewise, it doesn't necessarily make a difference to the quality of the design. But... isn't it funny?



BAINES & FRICKER

Brighton-based husband-and-wife team Steve Baines and Eliza Fricker launched their fledgling design company this year at 100% Futures. Baines' furniture collection (top) entitled 100% British, uses materials like oak, elm and Harris tweed for pieces manufactured in, you guessed it, Britain. "As a furniture maker I was fed up with using American black walnut so I found a timber yard near to us in Brighton with a wealth of British-grown timber for me to use," says Baines. An office took a turn on his modernist rocking chair, which was most satisfactory. Alongside this, Fricker showcased her screen-prints of dogs and cats on wallpaper.

ENDESIGNS

Be warned, this isn't for everyone. That said, there is something undeniably alluring about a stack of K9 crystal bricks glowing from underneath. Designer Katya Jovkovic and artist Ryan Brown introduced Aurum (top), which is made of hand-sanded and polished crystal perched on custom-made timber lightboxes. The bricks can be stacked in various configurations and weights, so Aurum has the potential to sit on a desk or grow big enough for a lobby installation, or even a life size game of Jenga. "We wanted to do something big and heavy and empowering," says Brown.

POTTINGER + COLE

This design duo has been around since 2005, steadily gaining recognition for their clean and simple forms. Married couple Wayne Pottinger and Natalie Cole use the manufacturing capabilities in their surrounding area, the West Midlands, to make furniture, lighting and objects. This year they launched a neat magazine caddy (top) and a bench and storage system for the first time, and introduced new colours to the tops of their successful side table from 2010.