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Q & A with product designer Orla Reynolds



Having just graduated from Dublin Institute of Technology, product designer Orla Reynolds is already on to big things. Her recent project 'As if From Nowhere...' incorporates inventive fun, functionality *and* simplistic style. No surprises then that she's already been getting her share of publicity. We talk to her to hear what's next on the cards.

You're fresh out of design school and already making fantastic designs – where do you get your inspiration?

I get my inspiration from searching out problems. I like to talk to people and find out what annoys them. My designs are solutions to problems people tell me about. I get inspiration from seeing how people are in their homes and how they respond to furniture and products. I always wonder what could make something work better.

What's the concept behind 'As If From Nowhere...'?

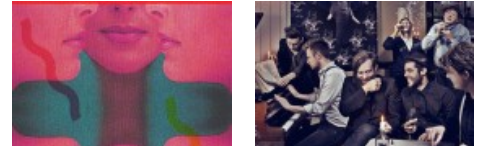
As if from nowhere... came from imagining the home as a theatre stage. I wanted the collection to be inspired by dance, as I used to be a ballet dancer. However, the pieces were becoming very sculptural and I love to design multi-functional pieces. Through research and concept development, particularly focused on small living spaces, the walls seemed to be the most wasted space. I decided to work within the dimensions of a bookcase. The movement from bookcase to dining is like a scene change.

The Buzz · 03 Jul 2012 by ArtRebels Crew

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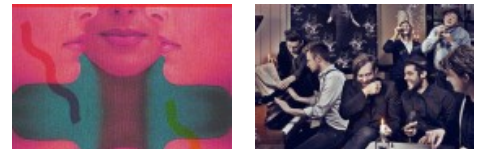
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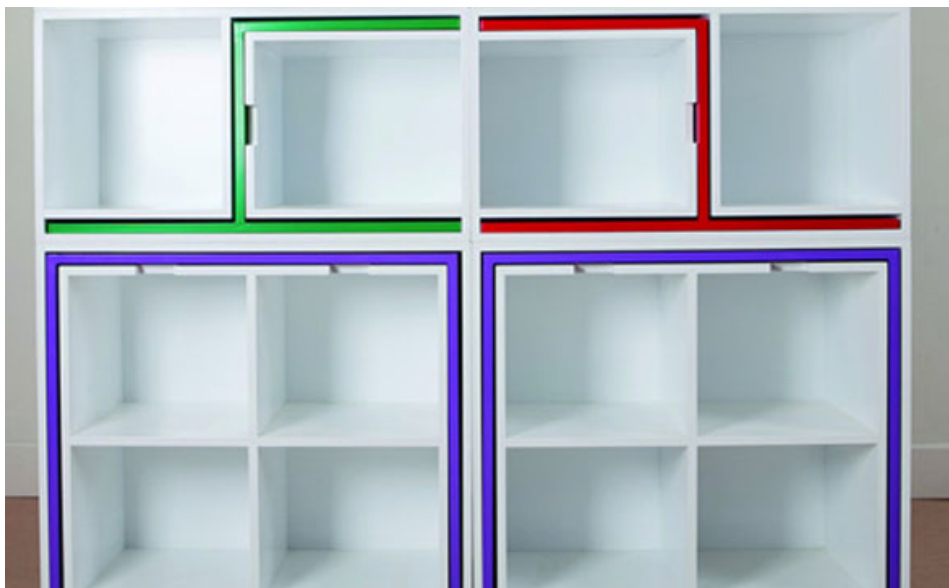


What materials do you like using?

Prior to this collection I would have said wood. However steel has opened up possibilities for some of my designs that otherwise would not have been possible. I find it thrilling to take all sorts of unwanted furniture, pull them apart and put them back together in a new way. People usually have a story about furniture they've bought and it's nice to maintain that.

What's your next plan?

My next plan is to take each day at a time. My aim is to keep working hard. I would love for many people to be able to enjoy As if from nowhere... in their homes so that is my main focus.



What are the top three things you love?

I love being in the sunshine, being from Ireland it doesn't happen that often however. I love being with friends and family. I love more than anything getting a new idea! That moment of epiphany is something I truly adore.

Your house / office is burning down – what do you save first?

I would save my childhood teddy Popple and my diaries which I have kept every day for over ten years now.



You're holding a dinner party and can invite 5 people – who's coming (dead or alive)?
Margot Fonteyn, Quentin Tarantino, Scott Fitzgerald, Miles Davis and Eileen Gray.

Do you have any secret talents up your sleeve?
I can juggle and I love the hula-hoop! I also love to sing and I used to play the drums.

If you weren't doing what you're doing now, what would you be up to?
I'd be choreographing or working in fashion design or fine art. I would have to do something creative on a daily basis.



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Chris • 2 months ago

Reynolds is truly talented to be fresh out of school and designing such awesome pieces. Kudos to her!

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