

MAKE YOUR HOME A PLEASURE ZONE

APRIL 1998 £2.60

ELLE DECORATION

MODERN
GLAMOUR
CLASSIC LOOKS
COOL IDEAS

**NICOLE
FARHI**
NEW HOME
COLLECTION

IT'S BIG
IT'S TRENDY
IT'S HOME
FRAGRANCE

60 BEST THINGS
WHAT DESIGN GURUS REALLY WANT!



sleek
furniture
seeks
warm jolly
owner

Eric Degenhardt, 30, melds a designer's eye for detail with an architect's sense of space to make furniture with a difference

In Degenhardt's world, 'architecture is a question of creating a space that people can adapt'. And his interest lies in creating the things that people use in that space. 'So my work is a collection of things that everyone needs: a vase, a side table...' he says. Thus although trained as an architect, Degenhardt has switched his focus to crafting a range of adaptable, amorphic, modern furniture: the 'Sleek Uniques'.

He also acts as a graphic design consultant, continues with his architectural work and has designed a collection for a French fashion firm with his partner Margot: 'I'm multi-interested and find it difficult to

PEOPLE

make the divide between things,' he says. In other words, this Cologne-based designer is just as influenced by music as he is by the work of Charles Eames, or even the streetlife of Brixton where he stayed for three months and was inspired to concentrate on furniture design.

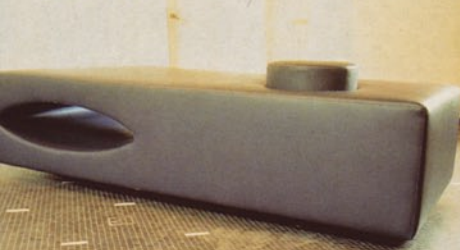
What's noticeable about all his pieces is the theme he calls 'a play between sharp and round': in 'Shift It' an amorphic blob is cut through the centre of the table, and his severe metal vase 'Square Rectangular' has a hole bored through its body. Degenhardt is also interested in trying out materials in unusual contexts, so a carpet is woven from stainless-steel, and his day bed is made from latex and leather.

In January this year he showed his latest design for a sideboard – described (accurately, if not flatteringly) as looking like a 'bar of wood' – at a fringe show at the Cologne Furniture Fair. It went down a storm and, in receiving a lot of interest, it seems to secure Degenhardt's reputation as one of design's brightest new stars. **Teresa King**

Contact Eric Degenhardt on (00 49 221 923 44 60)

PHOTOGRAPH: 44

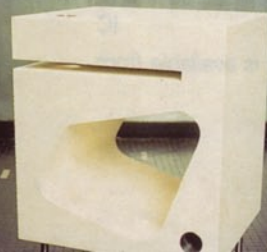
DAY BED



SIDEBOARD



SHIFT IT



COFFEE TABLE

