CANADIANI CANTADIANI INTERIORS

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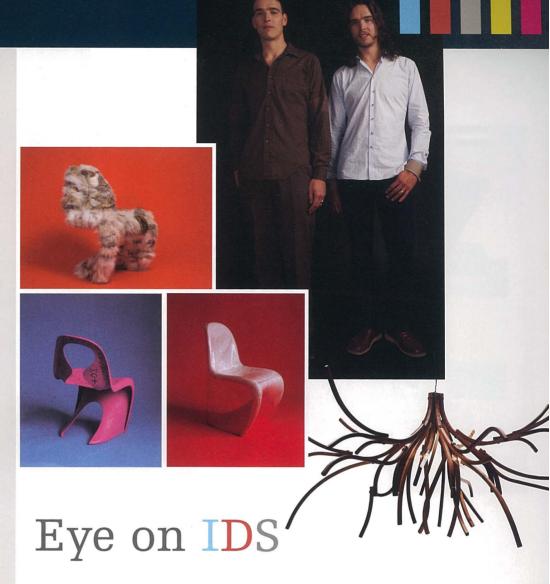


This past In January, the Interior Design Show made a triumphant return the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. Over four days, tens of thousands of visitors perused the aisles of the 175,000-square-foot space, to see what 300-plus exhibitors had to show. At the entrance, nestled between escalators, a pulsating video monolith by 64th and Queen provided a sense of excitement and anticipation.

This year's Opening Night Party, kicking off the 13th annual IDS, doubled as a unique charitable fundraising campaign where attendees could get their hands on a one-of-akind creation by today's most celebrated designers and architects. Participants - including Cecconi Simone, Karim Rashid, Johnson Chou Inc. and even CBC's own Steven & Chris, were put to the challenge of redesigning and personalizing Vitra's Panton Chair. Their efforts helped to raise more than \$21,000 for Casey House, Canada's first freestanding HIV/AIDS facility. After these pieces were scooped up in the auction, they remained on display for the duration of the show.

Another attention-grabber was the Sibling Revelry exhibit, a partnership of four design teams of Canadian siblings who transformed 600 square feet of space into their own unique statement of design. Upon first entering, visitors tiptoed through a garden of white pebble stones and columns of green foliage by Thien and My Ta Trung (Periphere, Montreal). Twins Jason and Lars Dressler (Brothers Dressler, Toronto) filled their space with their distinct touch of rustic wood and leather, with overlooking lights of the weaving Branches chandelier. The room of 1,000 paper cranes by David and Glenn Dixon (Toronto), inspired by a Japanese fable, was designed to be a space where wishes come true. The final space, by Theo and Sarah Richardson (New York/Toronto), was a play on the idea of reverse engineering where the rooms were created around the products drawing inspiration from either a particular product or colour.

There was no shortage of product designs on the floor, but it was the up-and-comers that really caught our eye this year. These new designers are rediscovering raw materials, minimizing their carbon footprint and designing products for the changing needs of interiors and people that inhabit them.



Do-good designers, stylish siblings and promising young talent rule Toronto's Interior Design Show.

—By Karolina Olechnowicz



Clockwise from top The Brothers Dressler, Jason and Lars: the Dressler's Branches chandelier, an instant classic; entrance to the 13th annual Interior Design Show, featuring a video monolith by 64th and Queen; iconic Panton Chairs redesigned and personalized by Karim Rashid (blue background), Cecconi Simone (red background) and the CBC's Steven & Chris (orange background).