



Agenda (Brussel Deze Week)

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**AGENDA**

# AND THE BICYCLE BECOMETH A HANDBAG

**EN |** A talk by maestro Mario Botta. A visit to the Plasticarium with its array of pop design. "Kids Fabrica" workshops for children in the Atomium. And – of course – the gigantic vintage Brussels Design Market in Thurn/Tour & Taxis. It is not going to be easy choosing among the 60 different events of Design September Brussels. JEAN-MARIE BINST

This year's fifth edition of Design September Brussels has a special focus on dusted-off vintage clothes dating from the 1950s to the mid-1980s, symbols of a Western generation short on funds and unable to spend much on new couture. With, as a bonus, "antiques" shops selling 20<sup>th</sup>-century design and a special boutique, Hallelujah (Stijl), where you will find vintage or recycled materials that have been fully reworked to create new designs. Design galleries and boutiques will flock to Design September from 8 to 30 September. There will also be film events, talks, workshops, and a special itinerary (with a shuttle service – see [www.dwe.be](http://www.dwe.be)) over the Designers Weekend (23-25 September). *Agenda* has picked out a number of exotic design events, focusing on what is happening around Europe and beyond: across the Channel in the United Kingdom, in the Netherlands, in Finland, and in Israel.

**A British Design Story**

Donna Wilson, British designer of the year 2010, is showing just what she can do with a variety of materials at La Fabrika: everything from knitted stuff to crockery to carpets to upholstered seating. In addition to a range of her latest work, you can also see eye-catching new stuff made by British manufacturers Ercol Furniture and SCP. Ercol, which has been

manufacturing impressive furniture for a good eighty years now, continues to beguile British consumers with its all-purpose wooden furniture. Its in-house design team is supplemented by leading British designers such as Matthew Hilton, who produce designs to commission.

"ISRAELI DESIGN IS THE  
 WORLD'S BEST-KEPT  
 SECRET"

SCP is presenting iconographic work by Russell Pinch, Jasper Morrison, James Irvine, and – yes, her again – Donna Wilson. An opportunity to (re)discover the creativity, quality, and tactile aesthetic of British design.

Ⓞ **A British Design Story: 8 > 30/9.**

ma/lu/Mo > za/sa/Sa 11 > 18.30,  
 LA FABRIKA, rue A. Dansaertstraat 182,  
 Brussel/Bruelles, 02-502.33.25, [www.lafabrika.be](http://www.lafabrika.be)

**Dutch Design Bike**

Orange bicycles. Yet another variant on Belgium's northern neighbours' obsession with their national colour! A series of special bike-part designs from the Netherlands can be seen in the "Dutch Design Bike" exhibition in the heart of

Brussels. The show, however, is not about handy bikes for getting around on, but about bicycle parts that, instead of being dumped or sold for scrap, have been reworked to create useful objects. Yksi Ontwerp from Eindhoven are the producers. From a bicycle wheel, their clever lads have made a chandelier. From bicycle tyres they have produced a designer handbag, while other bicycle remains have been drawn on by Yksi to design carpets and other recycling designs. As the event coincides with European Mobility Week, the Dutch embassy has offered its support and added something new: the "Orange Bike Days", where you can see some extraordinary bike variants, from the fastest reclining bicycle to a two-wheeler with a frame in oak. In Brussels, where cycling involves negotiating bumpy cobblestones and strips of cracked concrete as you try to figure out obscure street markings, a little taste of Dutch Design offers welcome relief.

Ⓞ **Dutch Design Bike: 5/9 > 2/10, di/ma/**

Tu > zo/di/Su 12 > 18.00, DE MARKTEN, Oude Graanmarkt 5 place du Vieux Marché aux Grains, Brussel/Bruelles, 02-512.34.25, [www.orangebikedays.eu](http://www.orangebikedays.eu)

**Land of Booze and Blondes**

Great figures such as Eero Saarinen, Alvar Aalto, and Tapio Wirkkala put Finland



Retyred Bag: old bicycle tyres become a handbag. Notice the strategically placed air valve and patch.

© Jan Willem van Hergevel, YKSH

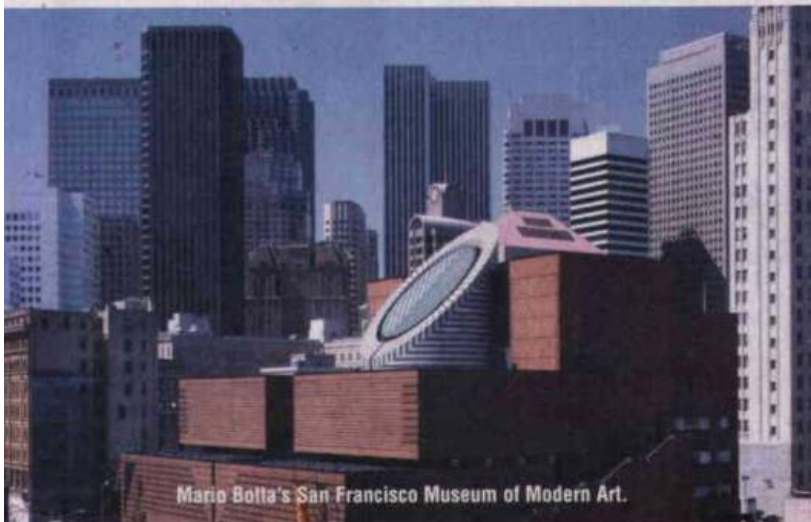


Zaza Chair  
by Omri  
Barzeev.

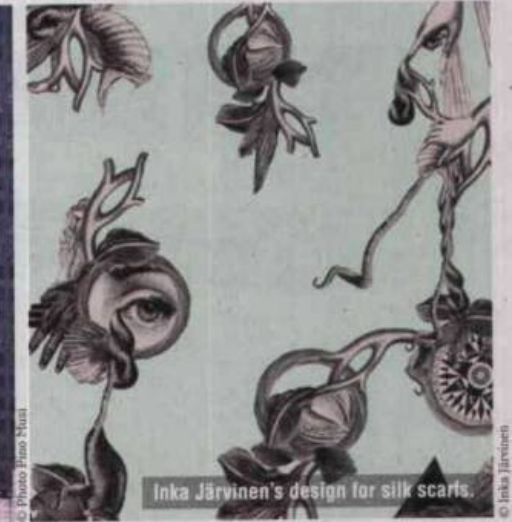


Meg Plate by Donna Wilson.

© Donna Wilson



Mario Botta's San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.



Inka Järvinen's design for silk scarfs.

© Inka Järvinen



and its distinctive Scandinavian design on the map in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Those heights have not been scaled for some time, but a young Finnish "New School" of illustrators and graphic designers is now conquering the world. People like Antti Uotila, who has been inspired by Japanese artists and has designed T-shirts for Levi's and Nixon. And Inka Järvinen, who established the Tsto agency and whose graphic work appeals both to adepts of pop culture and lovers of science fiction graphics. They are among the top ten illustrators (which also includes Lotta Nieminen, Sanna Mander, Rami Niemi, and Sac Magique) chosen by Agent Pekka (Finland's Graphic Designer of the year 2011) for the Brussels show. Their exhibition, "Pekka of Finland - Contemporary Illustration from the Land of Booze and Blondes" is fascinating, colourful, and contemporary. Look out too for the "pop-up show", where you can buy stuff by Agent Pekka's team of illustrators.

☉ **Pekka of Finland - Contemporary Illustration from the Land of Booze and Blondes: 30/9, 21 > 0.00 & 4 > 13/10, 10 > 17.00, RECYCLART, Ursulinestraat 25 rue des Ursulines, Brussel/Bruelles, 02-502.57.34, www.pekkafinland.fi**

**The Jewish secret**

Thinking about how ecology, recycling, do-it-yourself packages, and industrial simplicity can be brought together is what gave birth to the Bamboo Bench, a green-flavoured gentle garden bench. Made in Israel. You mightn't have expected a land of sand, stone, and wars to develop that kind of profile as it presents its design to the world. But the 50 Israelis and more than 60 Israeli design projects that showed work in the "Promise Design 2011" exhibition during Milan's Design Week in April won a lot of respect. The design historian Mel Byars, author of The Design Encyclopedia, had already declared that "Israeli design is the world's best-kept secret". And he was right. The likes

of Ayala Zarfati, Talila Abraham, Yaacov Kaufman, Ofir Zucker, Mika Barr, Gal Ben-Arav, Chanan De Lange, Tal Gur, Ami Drach, and a whole series of other designers will show what they have to offer, both in terms of craft know-how and high-tech ingenuity. The Israeli secret: they produce themselves, in small series, and dare to undertake experimental design. Taking no huge risks, accordingly, but delivering work that is subtly efficient, innovative, and full of promise. A discovery. **A**

☉ **Promise Design: 8 > 16 & 19 > 23/9, 10 > 18.00, PIERRE BERGÉ & ASSOCIÉS, Grote Zavel 40 place du Grand Sablon, Brussel/Bruelles, 02-504.80.30, www.pba-auctions.com**

**NL I** Van 8 tot 30 september kunnen designliefhebbers hun hart weer eens ophalen aan de ruim zestig evenementen die Design September voor hen in petto heeft. *Agenda* licht graag enkele toppers uit Groot-Brittannië, Israël, Finland en Nederland uit het programma.

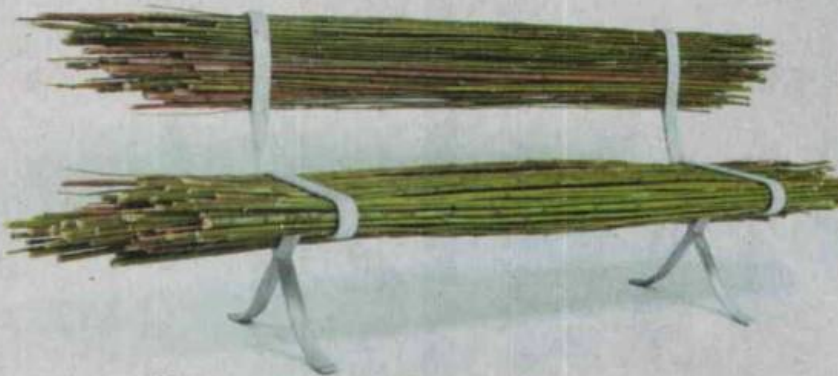
**FR I** Pendant près d'un mois, Design September Brussels vous donne l'occasion de découvrir le design belge et étranger au fil de 60 événements, dont l'immense marché aux puces Design Market à Tour & Taxis. *Agenda* a relevé pour vous quelques rendez-vous incontournables avec le design anglais, finlandais, hollandais et israélien.



**DESIGN SEPTEMBER**

**8 > 30/9 • VERSCHILLENDE LOCATIES/DIVERS ENDROITS/VARIOUS LOCATIONS**  
 www.designseptember.be

Ecology and simplicity brought together in the Bamboo Bench.



The vintage Brussels Design Market.