

CURRENTS: BEST IN SHOWS

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Stephen Treffinger for The New York Times

DESIGN

Housewares, One Layer at a Time, Hot Off the Machine

A project called In Dust We Trust, an exuberant collision of technology and design, was seen in Milan this year. Sponsored by the Italian company One Off, the project asked 20 designers (shown above, top, on the cover of the manifestolike catalog) to design objects that could be made with a rapid prototyping machine. The machine takes a computer file of a three-dimensional image and builds it, layer by layer, out of a mixture of plaster and glue. Then a resin coating is applied for strength. (Table lamps, like Tim Boyce's O's and X's, above, about \$1,400, require wiring.) Costanza Calvetti, owner of One Off, sees the project as a first step toward a new on-demand manufacturing process. The items will be manufactured as they are ordered. The manifesto (showing all of the designs) is available in English at www.industreal.it; prices are in euros.



Designers Push the Boundaries From Paris to Milan to New York

May marks the end of a rapid-fire season of furniture and design trade fairs and expositions, including big shows like Maison et Objet in Paris in January, Salone Internazionale del Mobile in Milan last month, the International Contemporary Furniture Fair in New York, just ended, and smaller April exhibitions like Brooklyn Designs. The Milan show dazzled with experimental projects like Quicnic, above, a modular cafe seating system by German design students, and projects from

Front, a Swedish design team, including wallpaper gnawed by rats and a table eaten by beetle larvae (beautiful and not at all gross). The Brooklyn show, in its third year, had nothing quite so daring, but still shone with clean, clever and readily available products.

Most of the items here are in production. Others can be specially made, like the innovative objects from In Dust We Trust, which in theory can be completed within hours of the placing of an order.