


Icon

ACTIVIST ARCHITECTS

NOVEMBER 2008



**IF YOU
WANT TO
CHANGE
SOCIETY
DON'T
BUILD
ANYTHING**

ARAM

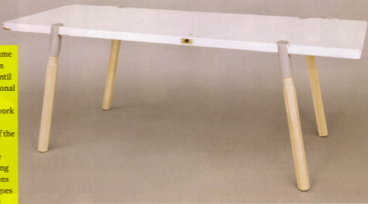
Okay Studio's Under the Same Roof exhibition at the Aram Gallery, which continues until November, is quite exceptional – every piece of the nine London-based designers' work is ready for production.

Framed early sketches of the work on show are hanging from the ceiling – evidence (from the gradually changing designs) of the conversations and honest feedback that goes into the studio's work. The Okayers continue to combine a slightly Heath Robinson, sideways approach to everyday problems with a calm, stripped-down aesthetic.

The show includes a large number of inventive tables. We were

particularly drawn to Clamp-a-Leg (06), a set of legs that can be clamped, vice-like, to any surface – such as an old door – to turn it into a table. It's part of Jorre van Ast's Thread Ensemble, a series of tables with detachable or adjustable legs, all threaded like screws. Peter Marigold is showing a working model of the forthcoming Ellipse table (10), a small circle that stretches like a concertina into a 3m-long dining table – and uses its own off-cuts as the loose leaves. Oscar Narud's contribution includes this coffee table which splits into five stools, part of a series called Slap-Dash (09).

Other outstanding pieces include Raw-Edges' beautiful Tailored Wood stools (08), a highly polished contrast to some of the more rough and ready woodwork of the others, and Tomás Alonso's elegant bentwood No 7 Chair and Mr Light lamp (07). Mr Light stays slim by using LEDs, which are even more energy efficient than fluorescent bulbs. Also in the lighting department is Matthias Hahn, who is showing the coolly minimal Scantling series – we particularly like the ceiling one – and the rather more luxurious Lanterns in warm metal and glass.



07



09



08



10