

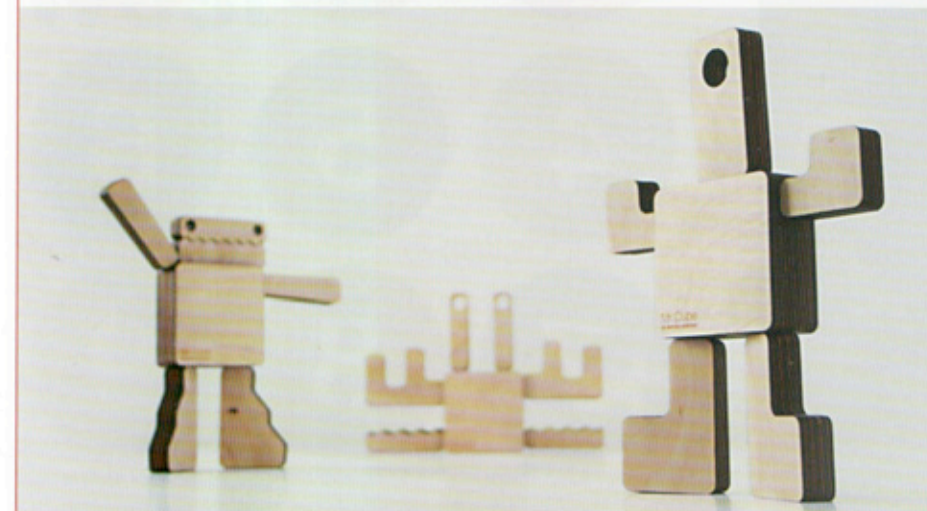
Inside:
Milan Furniture Fair
Light+Building
New talents
Eco design

A bit on the sideboard

Storage units you want to stand and admire



Héctor Serrano



If you're done and dusted with the Rubik's Cube, it's time to move on to Mr. Cube by Héctor Serrano, one of Spain's leading designers. He designed this educational toy for Muji, and it's on sale at stores worldwide. Serrano found the project straightforward and said, as the father of a toddler, it's good to have the opportunity to start thinking about things from a child's perspective from time to time.

Mr. Cube is a collection of plywood figures that have a common central body and interchangeable arms, legs and head. Unlimited combinations can be created thanks to its internal magnets. After playing, all the parts fit together forming a perfect cube that fits neatly in a pocket.

www.hectorserrano.com

Above: Mr. Cube, designed for Muji, is made from thin slices of plywood

Tomás Alonso



Left: A-Frame table for a new range of wooden furniture for Karimoku New Standard, presented at this year's Milan Furniture Fair

Tomás Alonso has designed a collection of solid wood desks and tables for Karimoku, Japan's leading manufacturer of wooden furniture. They were produced for its New Standard brand, which was launched in '09 to bring in ideas and concepts from international designers. While Karimoku may not be a familiar name to Europeans, it is a major player in the furniture industry in the Far East, with six factories, 18 showrooms and four outlet stores in Japan. It does work to minimise the environmental impact of logging and has started to use more hardwoods such as maple, oak and chestnut, which it says are under-used in furniture production.

Alonso has also taken part in a design workshop, organized by DESIGNEAST, to raise money for people in Tohoku affected by last year's tsunami. www.tomas-alonso.com

Projects round-up

Jose Alberto González

González moved to Japan at the end of last year to take up a role as Senior Product Designer with Yamaha Corporation, which has its headquarters in Hamamatsu. He's working principally on pianos and keyboards.

www.joseacreative.com

Luis Eslava

The designer is working with cult pen manufacturer Tombow, which was founded in 1913. The company's writing implements are sought-after around the world for their stylish, distinctive designs and lightweight materials.

www.luis eslava.com

Nacho Carbonell

Carbonell, one of Spain's more experimental designers, belongs to the Japan Creative design initiative. His designs were featured in JC's Simple Vision exhibition at the Minjuzji Museum in Milan, held during Milan Design Week, which coincides with the city's international furniture fair. The exhibition offered a re-interpretation of traditional Japanese items, with pieces made with carbon fibre.

www.nachocarbonell.com

