

PRESS RELEASE  
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## THE WOOD AWARDS: EXCELLENCE IN BRITISH ARCHITECTURE AND PRODUCT DESIGN 2016 SHORTLIST ANNOUNCED

### Furniture and Product Competition

A shortlist of 12 projects has been selected from a record number of 182 British furniture and product projects in this year's Wood Awards. Two bespoke designs, six production and four student designs have been selected by the judges led by Max Fraser, design curator and author. All of the shortlisted projects will be on display at 100% Design stand L620, 21<sup>st</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> September at London Olympia. The winners will be revealed by host Grant Gibson, editor of Crafts magazine, at the 45<sup>th</sup> annual Wood Awards ceremony at Carpenters' Hall on 22nd November.

Established in 1971, the Wood Awards is the UK's premier competition for excellence in architecture and product design in the world's only naturally sustainable material. The Awards aim to recognise, encourage and promote outstanding design, craftsmanship and installation using wood.

Max Fraser comments, "It was encouraging to see an increase in the number of entries to the Awards this year. In particular, the quality of work entered into the production category improved, demonstrating that wood remains a leading material choice within the furniture business. All of the judges look forward to coming face-to-face with our shortlisted designs in the next round of judging in September."

### BESPOKE

#### 1. LOG STACK CABINET



**Designer:** Byron & Gómez  
**Maker/Manufacturer:** Byron & Gómez  
**Wood Supplier:** Capital Crispin, Lathams  
**Wood Species:** European Oak

Log Stack Cabinet began with a desire to highlight the beauty of end-grain. The project draws inspiration from traditional Chinese medicine cabinets and simple log stacks. The designer used end-grain veneer to create the illusion that each drawer is a single piece of timber. White resin was used for its aesthetic quality and to create the illusion of full rings by covering where the leaves of veneer meet. The design of the handles was dictated by the missing/damaged central rings of the veneer. The inside of the drawers is painted satin white to give the illusion that light is being emitted through the white fractures on the front.

## 2. PANTORI



**Designer:** Steph Leake, Intern at Jack Badger Ltd.

**Maker/Manufacturer:** Jack Badger Ltd.

**Client/Owner:** Nojō

**Wood Supplier:** Brooks Brothers Timber

**Project Architect:** Holland Harvey Architects

**Photography:** Adrian Lambert Photography

**Wood Species:** European Oak, English Ash

Inspired by the Japanese Wabi-Sabi aesthetic that embraces simplicity and naturalness, Pantori is a freestanding pantry larder, created for Japanese crepe eatery, Nojō. A combination of Japanese and English joinery has been used. The top has been jointed using three way mitres and wedged tenons, the rails are housed dovetails, while the drawers have been housed and nailed with ring shank nails typically used in boat building. Oak was selected for the frame and flexible straight-grained ash for the woven inner drawers. Shou Sugi Ban, the traditional Japanese technique of burning timber to preserve it and make it resistant to fire, rot and insects, inspired the scorching on the oak. Within the drawers, waste sawdust creates a substrate for mushrooms to grown in. Two extra rails allow the positioning of the drawers to be changed while the oak board provides an extra workspace.

## PRODUCTION MADE

### 1. DYEHOUSE FALL BENCH



**Designer:** Dyehouse

**Maker/Manufacturer:** Paragon Oak

**Wood Supplier:** Paragon Oak

**Bronze Work:** Precision Engineering

**Wood Species:** French Green Oak

The Dyehouse Fall Bench challenges throwaway thinking in an age of the disposable product. This timeless ethos is emphasised by the solid oak, a material that has been used in furniture and construction for centuries. Fall is cut from a single piece of French oak weighing 300 kilograms and measuring almost 3 metres in length. The sculptural bench is intended to survive through future generations. The shakes, scuffs and custodian's engravings will continue to enhance its story.

### 2. ERCOL FLOW CHAIR



**Designer:** T.n.a Design.

**Maker/Manufacturer:** ercol Furniture Ltd

**Wood Species:** European Beech

The brief for the ercol Flow chair was to produce a modern dining chair that could sit comfortably in any environment. The contemporary form reflects Tomoko Azumi's aim of improving daily life through design. The refined sweeping lines, the tapered seat and the innovative assembly of back bow and underframe showcase the skill of the designer and the craftsmanship of the maker. European beech was selected for its suitability for steam-bending around the tight curves of Flow's backrest bow. The stacking function required the minimum possible variation between bends. The need for stability informed the final construction of the

comb-jointed assembly of steam-bent back bow and steam-bent legs. Radio frequency bending was used to bend multiple V-shaped back slats in a single pressing. The CNC machined solid beech seat and underframe leg assemblies were designed to be 'picked up' as few times as possible, minimising machining time and costs.

### 3. PLANKS COLLECTION



**Designer:** Max Lamb  
**Maker/Manufacturer:** Benchmark  
**Wood Supplier:** Tyler Hardwoods  
**Wood Species:** British Douglas Fir or European Oak

Designed by Max Lamb, Planks' roots lie in the humble carpenter's workbench and 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> century English country furniture. The collection (a dining table, bench, shelving, console table and lounge table) promotes utility, strength, durability and economy of material. Easily accessible storage prevents clutter from gathering on work surfaces. Varying plank sizes have been used for each piece of furniture to minimize waste. Full-width planks are used as the defining feature. Narrower planks are joined to form structural rails to support the top. Four simple L-shaped legs, structurally strong yet physically light, connect to the side of the box and support the cantilevered top. Available in Douglas fir or oak.

### 4. SEBASTIAN COX KITCHEN BY DEVOL



**Designer:** deVOL and Sebastian Cox  
**Maker/Manufacturer:** deVOL  
**Wood Supplier:** Barnswell Timber  
**Wood Species:** English Beech, English Ash, Birch Ply

The Sebastian Cox Kitchen by deVOL has been designed to champion English beech, often overlooked due to its colour changeability. Sebastian Cox collaborated with deVOL's design team to produce a commercially viable kitchen that brings craftsmanship and the British woodlands into the urban environment. The doors are made from solid beech planks fixed together using a running dovetail brace made from ash. The fascias, end panels and plinth also use beech, with the carcasses made from birch ply. deVOL is the first kitchen company to use woven timber in a kitchen cupboard, bringing a textural element to the glazed cabinets and allowing air to circulate. Each kitchen is designed to order with both standard and bespoke sizes available.

### 5. STRETCH EXTENDING DINING TABLE



**Designer:** Pengelly Design Ltd.  
**Maker/Manufacturer:** Holz-in-form  
**Client/Owner:** Montis  
**Wood Species:** European Beech, Birch or Oak

The Stretch Extending Dining Table was conceived to use the natural characteristics of formed ply. The form of the laminations enables the top to slide along a very simple metal frame, exposing the extension leaves stored within the table. First designed in 2003, the original was much smaller and less successful. The re-design in 2015 was based on overcoming issues with the movement of each lamination. The updated version is significantly larger due to these issues being resolved.

## 6. WELL PROVEN STOOL



**Designer:** van Aubel & Shaw  
**Maker/Manufacturer:** James Shaw Studio  
**Wood Supplier:** G & S Specialist Timber  
**Wood Species:** American Ash, American Cherry, American Walnut

The Well Proven Stool uses a composite of sawdust and soya based resin. Understanding that 50-80% of timber becomes sawdust when transforming planks to products, James Shaw and Marjan van Aubel looked into ways to use this waste material. The mixture produces a surprising reaction causing the mixture to expand up to 300% before setting into a strong and lightweight foamed material. The Well Proven Stool takes the lessons learnt from the Well Proven Chair (2013) and applies them to a mass producible item. The waste created from the hardwood legs goes into producing the 'foamed wood' seat while the colour of the sawdust used dictates the colour of the seat.

## STUDENT DESIGNER

Within the Student Designer category there are two cash prizes; £1,000 for Winner and £500 for People's Choice. Voting for the People's Choice Award will take place via Twitter using the name of the project and the hashtag #WASStudent16. Voting closes 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016.

### 1. GEOMETRY



**Designer:** Michael Stevenson  
**College/University:** Building Crafts College  
**Wood Supplier:** Blumsoms, Capital Crispin Veneer  
**Steel Supplier:** Parker Steel  
**Wood Species:** European Oak

Geometry is a modern circular dining table. The frame is inspired by molecular geometry, made with contemporary stainless steel rods and contrasting classic oak junctures. The table top consists of constructional oak veneer and solid oak lipping.

### 2. MILENA



**Designer:** Juan Junca  
**College/University:** Building Crafts College  
**Wood Supplier:** Moss and Co., Capital Crispin Veneer  
**Wood Species:** European Oak

Milena is a large easy chair with an oak frame and woven Danish cord seat and backrest. The sleek curves of the frame were first shaped by machine then finished by hand. The oak has been soap finished to give the chair a golden-brown colour and a texture that enhances curved design. The back legs are laminated with constructional veneers while the rest of the frame components are made of solid oak. Mortice and tenon joints for the seat-leg joints. Domino joints have been used elsewhere.

### 3. ONE-SHEET DINING CHAIR



**Designer:** Terry Davies  
**College/University:** Rycotewood Furniture Centre  
**Wood Supplier:** Y Goldberg  
**Wood Species:** Finnish Birch Ply

The One-Sheet Dining Chair has been designed using one sheet of 4mm birch ply, laminated in 3 layers. The choice of material was critical as the 4mm ply has just enough capability to bend around the curves. All the components have been cut from one lamination process. The designer wanted to create an affordable chair that was resourceful of materials and had a short production time. The components are assembled using a combination of joint connector bolts, wood to metal dowels and vibration mounts.

### 4. VELO CHAIR



**Designer:** Jan Waterston  
**College/University:** Rycotewood Furniture Centre  
**Wood Supplier:** Tyler Hardwoods, Mundy Veneer  
**Wood Species:** English Ash, American Ash Constructional Veneer

Inspired by the bicycle, the Velo Chair connects body and object by seamlessly wrapping itself around the user. Each surface is hand sculpted. Ash was selected for its flexibility, allowing the complex curves to be free-form laminated without breaking. The flexibility allows a more comfortable backrest which flexes and moulds around the sitter.

### SPONSORS

As a not-for-profit competition, the Wood Awards can only happen with collaborative industry sponsorship.

Arnold Laver sponsors the Arnold Laver Gold Award which is the project that the judges deem to be the best of all the winners.

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