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5 OF THE BEST  
by Viktor Udzenija

## Five of the Best by Viktor Udzenija



In the first of a series of posts where design luminaries from the Middle East will highlight exceptional pieces to be shown the 2014 fair, Dubai-based architect Viktor Udzenija chooses his Top 5...

### 1) Next Level Galerie – Philippe Malouin “Power Shelves”

As an architect this is extremely appealing to me – the inspiration from the industrial architecture of the 20th century is beautiful. The Many would think that it is quite raw but that is where the beauty lies. It is perfect how the designer has achieved the lightness of the piece - the delicate yet super strong lattice structure is holding up the heavy raw concrete sl. This piece is extremely universal – due to the fact that the designer has used brass for the structure the piece has obtained wonderful warmth in contrast to the concrete shelves and I can see it fit in super contemporary interiors as well as spaces are more classical. It is a perfect standalone eye catching piece that is absolutely timeless.



## 2) Croft – Ilhoon Roh “Rami Bench”

Another beautiful example of using the right material to achieve the desired vision of the designer. Carbon fibre used here in an extremely organic arrangement of seemingly random thin strings wrapped around a honeycomb structure base. It does not only appear as a slice of an ultra-light sponge, it actually is so light that you can carry it around with one hand despite its dimensions – making this piece extremely practical. You can reposition it to your likings, move it around the space as required when required without extra effort. Another timeless piece that is extremely universal and due to the see-through delicate structure can melt in with any surroundings.



## 3) Carpenters Workshop Gallery – Frederic Mollenschot “City lights chandelier”

This piece speaks for itself and does not need many words to describe it. It is absolutely breath taking. The beauty lies in the seemingly endless curved structure looking like a magical branch holding tiny golden blossoms. It is so romantic that it is hard to describe it with simple technical words. I love the contrast of the raw solid brass that has a raw finish of the old sculptor masters and the perfectly finished golden domes with the technology of the 21st century. Each dome has a tiny LED light inside and reflecting this golden hue into the space. The designer has managed to create a seemingly weightless piece using a heavy solid metal. It is timeless, rich and considering each of these is designed for a specific place also unique.



#### 4) Art Factum Gallery – Marc Baroud & Marc Dibeh “Wires floor lamp”

This piece is so original that it is hard to describe. A strong standalone piece where the oversized geometrical structure is holding up a small mirror polished sphere reflecting the light of the tiny LED branches around it arranged almost like a dandelion flower. It reminds me of some kind of a nuclear reactor on a small scale – it is very raw and futuristic. Beautiful piece that will grab attention wherever it is placed.



#### 5) Coletivo Amor de Madre – Andrea Bandoni & Joana Meroz “The Archetypical Vase”

Already the name of the piece is taking us back in history somehow. Various shapes of vases from different periods are placed in each other like a Russian Matrioshka doll. The designers will probably not like my description but I love finding humour in each piece of design and I am sure that is the intention of the designer here as well. Using delicate thin mouth blown glass allows us to see all the shapes inside the big volume. It is a fun piece that is very decorative and will fit into a interior.



Kind regards,

Viktor Udzenija, Dipl.Ing.Arch.

Founder & CEO

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