

BENCHMARK

March 2011

BENCHMARK TO LAUNCH NEW PIECES IN MILAN



Launched over twenty five years ago by Terence Conran and Sean Sutcliffe, English furniture maker **Benchmark** is a well established brand in the UK renowned for its sustainably made furniture with core values of best design, materials and craftsmanship. A specially selected collection of Benchmark furniture including several new pieces will be presented at **designjunction**, a collaboration of UK brands exhibiting at the Zegna Headquarters, Via Savona 56, Zona Tortona during the Milan Furniture Fair 12-17 April 2011.

Tables, upholstery and lighting will feature in the collection including designs by **Terence Conran, Russell Pinch, Jens Risom, Steuart Padwick and Simen Aarseth:**

A new edition of Terence Conran's **Alvis Sofa** range will be presented and will join other Conran designed pieces including the **Heath Table**, a solid walnut dining table with curvaceous legs, the **Camberwell Desk** which has an inlaid leather writing surface which lifts up – a bit like an old school desk, and **Brimstone Side Tables** topped with Carrera marble on turned oak pedestals.

Russell Pinch's **Mrs B Dining Table**, a modern interpretation of a classically proportioned turned leg kitchen table will be shown with striking painted legs and will be joined by the new **Mrs B Console** with limestone top and **Mrs B Bench**.

The **Puck Side Table** is designed by Simen Aarseth, a new designer for Benchmark and an exciting young talent to watch out for. These simple but sophisticated tables make a statement whether arranged individually or in groups. They are made in oak and walnut with either timber or lacquered tops and are presented in two sizes.

Benchmark's **Jens Risom furniture** will also feature at designjunction. It is the result of a collaboration with Danish-born American designer, Jens Risom and Rocket Gallery, to reissue his

1950's and 1960's furniture designs. The first collection of nine pieces, released in 2010 in London includes an easy chair, a side chair, a desk, various coffee tables, two magazine tables and Risom's famous upholstered bench. Samples in oak and walnut with upholstery in a variety of Kvadrat fabrics and Elmo leathers will be on display.

The new pieces join an existing collection of furniture designed by other well known designers including Thomas Heatherwick, Steuart Padwick and Kay+Stemmer as well as Benchmark's own in-house design team and up and coming young designers such as Jonathan Tibbs, whom Benchmark are keen to help develop.

All of the furniture is made from sustainable timber, by Benchmark craftsmen, in the company's workshops. Many of the pieces will be available in a choice of timbers and finishes as well as different sizes. Each piece, individually numbered and recorded, carries a pewter disk showing that it is a Benchmark original.

Ends

Note to Editors and Stylists

High resolution images and cut-outs of all the pieces are available on request. Please contact::

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Benchmark

In addition to its domestic furniture range, Benchmark is also well known in the UK for its design led work with architects and interior designers on a diverse range of commissions for offices, public institutions, hotels, bars and restaurants. Recent and current projects include The London Library, Edinburgh Castle, Soho House, Queen's College in Oxford and the headquarters of The Woodland Trust.

designjunction – connecting British design

designjunction is a key destination at this year's Salone del Mobile showcasing world-class designers and manufacturers in the spectacular headquarters of Zegna, Via Savona. Brands showing include Modus, Benchmark, Innermost, Channels, Beau McClellan, Anglepoise, Anything, Melin Tregwynt, Wedgewood, Roll & Hill and + Stone. Visit www.thedesignjunction.co.uk

Designers

Simen Aarseth

Simen works as a product designer and interior architect in Oslo. He was a badge winner in the Blueprint Awards at 100% Design 2010 where he showed the Puck Side Table as part of 100% Norway.

Terence Conran

Terence co-founded Benchmark over 25 years ago with Sean Sutcliffe and has designed many pieces for Benchmark's domestic furniture range. Benchmark's workshops are situated in the grounds of Terence's country house in Kintbury, West Berkshire, England. Terence often describes Benchmark as the business that is closest to his home and his heart.

Russell Pinch

Russell became well known to Benchmark when he worked as Terence Conran's design assistant and later in his role as Senior Product Designer for the Conran Group. He has designed a number of pieces in the Benchmark collection. He is the founder of PINCH, a furniture, product and interior design company set up in 2004.

Jens Risom

Jens Risom was born in Copenhagen in 1916. From 1935 to 1938 he attended the School for Arts and Crafts in Copenhagen where he trained under the furniture maker Kaare Klint and his fellow students included Hans Wegner. In 1939, Risom emigrated from Denmark to the USA, where in 1941 he designed the first range of furniture manufactured by Hans Knoll. He established Jens Risom Design Inc in 1946 which grew to become the third largest furniture company in America. He has had close involvement in this first collection of nine pieces launched in London in 2010.