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Asian Flair

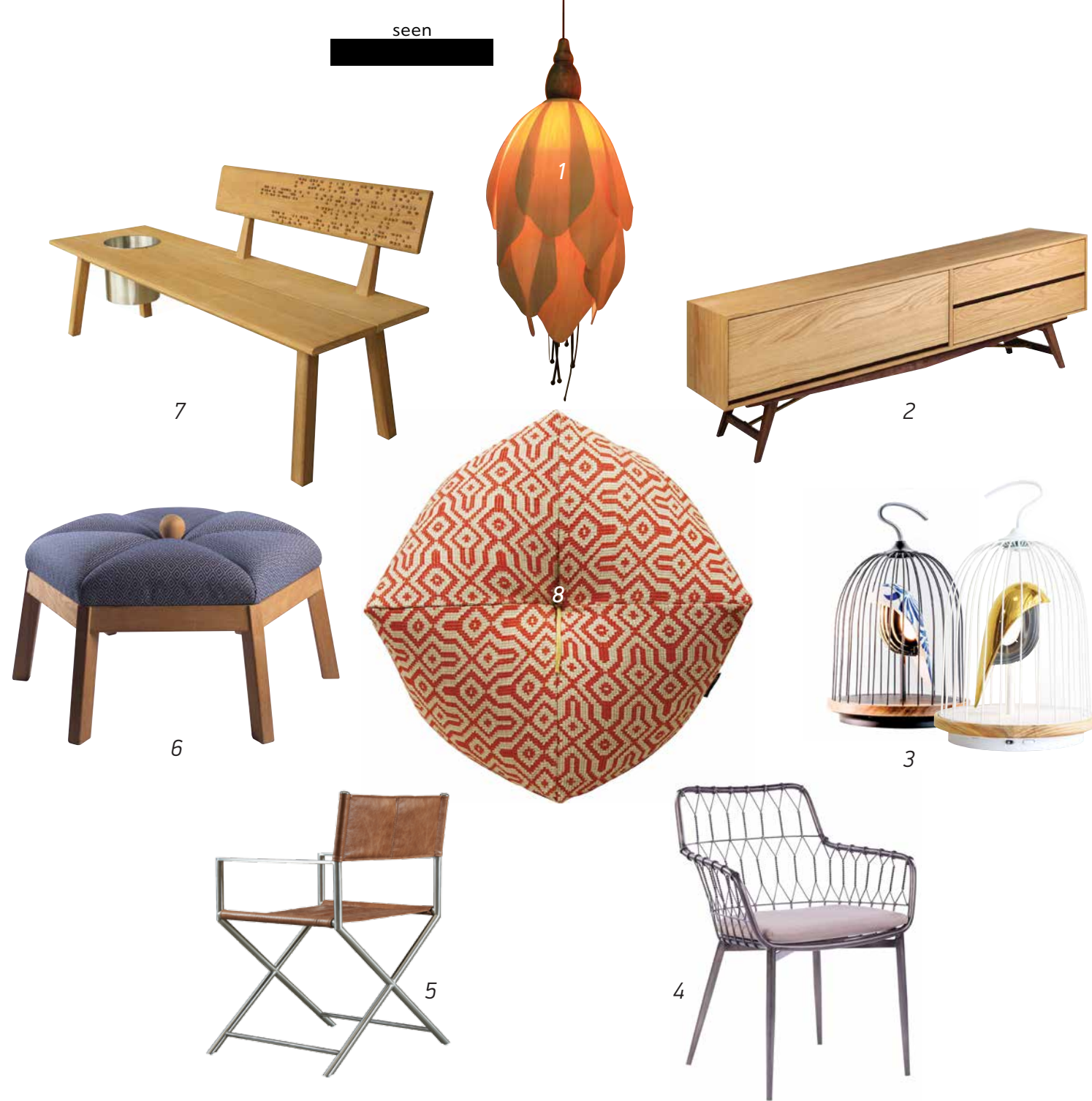
IFFS is both leading and collecting work from a vibrant design community growing in the Southeast Asian region. By Enrico G. Cleva & Sara Viarengo Cleva

— Singapore, a city-state nestled in the geographic and economic epicentre of Southeast Asia, is one of the wealthiest and more organized locations in this part of the world, and as such has become a strategic market for high-end products in Asia. Which is why the International Furniture Fair of Singapore (IFFS) has emerged as one of the best trade shows in the region to see original southeast Asian high-end design, and a preferred platform for western manufacturers to approach this part of the globe. -----

Gathering forward-thinking design-oriented exhibitors from Japan, China and the Philippines to growing design countries like Thailand and Vietnam, IFFS has seen an important transformation in the past few years, shifting from a commercial-trade-furniture show for international buyers, mostly in the mass market, to a design event, suitable to a public that looks for the best regional and international design, not visible anywhere else. -----

Shelf Mate | d-Bodhi Singapore, The Netherlands

Bodhi, Sanskrit for "awakening," is also the term Buddhists use to express "enlightenment" or "the call to think beyond the ordinary." The "d" in front stands for design: put both of them together and d-Bodhi can be translated to mean "enlightening design." Shelf Mate is a system of five variously sized shelving units, handcrafted out of reclaimed teak. Shelf Mate is also wordplay on "self-made," since you will have to assemble and hang it yourself. www.d-bodhi.com



1 Lamps | Touchable Thailand
Is this a lamp or a flower? It's both! The petals of the lamp come in two different shapes made by a very thin sheet of timber, creating natural yet warm and cozy lighting effects. www.touchablebangkok.com

2 Dualtone | Commune Singapore
Dualtone is a range of living, dining and bedroom products specially designed to highlight the best qualities of two timbers: bright oak and dark walnut. Set in mid-century flavours and topped off with tinges of pale brass-coloured stainless steel, the collections are designed with the intent of minimizing waste, with wood sourced from sustainably-managed forests and lacquers and coatings with low lead content. www.thecommunelife.com

3 JinGoo | Daqiconcept Taiwan
By bringing together an ambient light and a Bluetooth speaker, JinGoo is the perfect blend of Eastern aesthetics and superb sound quality. JinGoo features a mono two-way speaker, the low frequency woofer positioned in the base structure and its sound waves reflected by the ceramic tail of the bird. A wide stereo effect is created with the sound waves from the tweeter located in the bird's body. www.daqiconcept.com

4 Ritorto | a.garcia Philippines
The Ritorto line of seating and tables doesn't shy away from the regional design vocabulary of its predecessors. In fact it embraces it, just with a new twist. This is traditional rattan furniture but rendered in a different material: steel. www.agarciacrafts.com

5 Sydney chair | Harbour Australia
This collection reimagines in equal parts nostalgia and high-end Sydney style. Straight linear lines paired with mixed materials offer a signature look reminiscent of home. The stainless steel frame is available in polished or PVD brass finish. The South American leather sling is reinforced with canvas army duck fabric. www.harbouroutdoor.com

6 Pumpkin | Deesawat Thailand
Pumpkin is part of a collection of outdoor lifestyle seating in which Deesawat has been working with Zero First design and Sarran Youkongdee, with textiles by Jim Thompson, known as one of the best fabric manufacturers in Thailand. The Pumpkin bench is inspired by a traditional Thai cushion. www.deesawat.com



7 Tie bench | Deesawat Thailand
Founded in 1972, Deesawat is one of the leaders of a thriving wood industry in Thailand, with furniture that brings strong esthetic as well as narrative qualities. For example the Tie bench, with Braille message in relief on the back promoting blind people to stay with others and share their experiences. It says "If you sit alone, try to move to the side, and leave some space for the people to share with you." www.deesawat.com

8 Ojami | Takaokaya Japan
The Ojami is an original cushion developed by Takaokaya over the last decade. The unique shape is inspired by the ancient Japanese beanbag toy called *tedama* or *ojami* in Kyoto dialect. Takaokaya's funky, modern take is filled with azuki beans, handcrafted by skilled Kyoto artisans, and comes in a variety of colours, fabric coverings, fillings and sizes. The geometric shape is amazingly comfortable and is designed for posture support and correction. www.takaoka-kyoto.jp

9 Cane collection | Podium Thailand
Caning, a method of surface weaving used for furniture, is derived from the peeled bark of the rattan stalk commonly found in Southeast Asia. "The caned furniture has a unique quality that gives warm and timeless texture to the interior

space. We love the historic touch when we work with this material and the craftsmanship process. We try to capture the classic colonial interior and reinterpret it in new contemporary lifestyle," says Atelier 2+, the design outfit behind the collection. www.podium.co.th

10 Nathan Yong Collection | Ipse Ipsa Ipsum Singapore, India
Designed in collaboration with renowned local designer Nathan Yong, the eponymous collection is the first of Ipse Ipsa Ipsum's line of co-authored collections that features a wide range of furniture and lifestyle accessories. The customers can select from multiple variations of a sofa by choosing different components such as an additional lamp or mirror, or white or grey leather hides to adorn the hand-forged sofa. www.ipseipsaipsum.com

11 SAN collection | Manutti Belgium
An iconic and sculptural piece designed by Lionel Doyen for true design aficionados, SAN's natural lines in exotic Iroko wood are supported by refined materials such as powder-coated aluminum and marble. Sublimating the outdoor experience, the collection boasts a unique set of possible set-ups, from bench to lounge and sofa or two-seater. www.manutti.com