TIME
Style & Design
THE DESIGN 100
THE PEOPLE AND IDEAS BEHIND TODAY'S MOST INFLUENTIAL DESIGN
SUMMER 2008 SUPPLEMENT TO TIME
PRODUCT DESIGNERS

Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec

If there were ever any doubt that two heads are better than one, take a look at the Bouroullec brothers. Ronan, 36, who once dreamed of playing pro soccer, and Erwan, 32, work at either end of a table in their Paris studio, passing designs back and forth until they hammer out wonders like the stripped-down adjustable Joyn office for Vitra. In high demand since their Lit Clos sleeping cabin—reminiscent of a Breton peasant bed—debuted in 2000, the two have brought their playful creativity to projects for Cappellini, Kartell and Ligne Roset. Their guiding design principle, that products should be adaptable to their customers’ lives, is best seen in their popular 2004 Algue system for Vitra. It may look like plastic seaweed, but when snapped together, it transforms into either a wall covering or a room divider in limitless variations. It’s doubly good news then that this year the duo debut a chair for Kartell, alongside new Magis Steelwood pieces.

The Specialists

These six design innovators focus on one medium or area of expertise

Keiichi Tahara
Trained as a photographer, he won raves with a light-sculpture installation at Paris’ Denis Diderot University. His Green Plaza opens in Beijing in 2009

Martino Gamper
London-based artist Gamper set out to design 100 chairs in 100 days. The results are seen in his book 100 Chairs in 100 Days in 100 Ways

Sylvie Fleury
The pools created by this Swiss artist have everything from tongue-in-cheek inscriptions tiled around the edges to underwater music systems

James Jean
Miuccia Prada knows her prints, and when she wants something special, she calls on illustrator Jean to realize her ideas, like the recent fairy print

Kate Hume
Her brightly colored glass is like jewelry for the home. A new collection in amber and silver is inspired by this former stylist’s fashion sensibility

Brodie Neill
The swirling forms of this Australian designer’s chrome chair, born of Neil’s desire to make a seat out of one continuous loop, debut in May