

# idfx

INSPIRATION FOR INTERIOR DESIGN PROFESSIONALS

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## Wild Thing

Eclectic interiors take design off the beaten track

### HARD NEWS

Designers explore the potential of concrete in product design

### WILLIAM YEOWARD

One of the great creative talents in modern British interiors



FEBRUARY 2011 / £5.50



# CHAIR 4A

By: MICHAEL YOUNG  
Fan: STAFFAN TOLLGARD

Words JENNY BREWER



**STAFFAN TOLLGARD** graduated from the Inchbald School of Design in 2004 and in 2006 was one of idfx's 10 designers to watch. Beginning his interior design career at Rabih Hage, he

very quickly went it alone, starting Staffan Tollgard Design Group in 2005. Five years and 100 projects later, the practice moved to Notting Hill with a team of 10 designers working on a range of high-end residential projects in the UK and Europe. Recent projects include a modern penthouse in Bloomsbury, a 929m<sup>2</sup> new-build on the Coombe Estate and period renovations in Knightsbridge, Belgravia and Kensington. Tollgard was born and raised in Stockholm and Scandinavian influences run through his work — he takes a methodical approach to the design process and a focus on sculptural furniture and sleek functionality. His latest venture, Kurate, represents innovative design talent in China and brings it to the UK. [www.tollgard.co.uk](http://www.tollgard.co.uk) [www.kurate.co.uk](http://www.kurate.co.uk)

**Inside story** Chair 4A is a dining chair manufactured in recycled aluminium, developed through a pioneering application of the technology used to manufacture the MacBook laptops. Designer Michael Young worked with specialist engineering facilities in Shenzhen, China, to produce the piece as part of his Works in China collection, using expert local knowledge and complex innovative tooling for a new and different purpose. Sheet aluminium is rolled into tubes to create the legs and backrest but is then opened out to meet the corners of the seat. The result is a lightweight, sleek and contemporary piece of furniture. Prompted by his dislike for working with plastic, Young created this mass-produced, state-of-the-art chair with the curved forms and low-cost production of a plastic design but with the aesthetics and sustainable credentials of aluminium. Originally designed for Hong Kong restaurant SML in 2009, the chair was soon produced for general release in Japan and Europe and is available exclusively through DD-3.



**MICHAEL YOUNG** is a British product, furniture and interior designer based in Hong Kong. He is known for his colourful, playful products as well as his intelligent use of innovative

production techniques. After founding his studio in London in 1994, Young soon opened spaces in Reykjavik and Brussels before moving to Hong Kong in 2006 to work more closely with specialist manufacturers. In more recent years, the studio has aimed to lead the way in marrying modern British design styles with local Chinese technical expertise, bringing the best of both worlds to its global clientele. His work can be characterized by its soft curved forms, seen in projects for Established & Sons, Cappellini, Sawaya & Moroni and Magis. Young has created an eclectic range of projects, such as barware for Schweppes, bicycles for Giant, speakers for EOps Technology and restaurant interiors for Pissaro. [www.michael-young.com](http://www.michael-young.com)

**'C**hair 4A perfectly captures a moment in design history that I am inspired and excited by. I met its designer, Michael Young, in Shanghai last year, when I was scouting for my latest venture, Kurate. Chair 4a combines a conscience with cutting-edge design and technology; it is made of recycled aluminium and, in a sense, recycled technologies. Look closely at the sculptural curves of Chair 4A's legs — at the sheet aluminium that is rolled at the foot and unfurls into the seat. Then look at the MacBook you have on your desk. Young has brilliantly recognised the depth and breadth of engineering expertise at work in the Chinese companies that make Macs and has rendered and sculpted their base material into a new and innovative creation. He's even moved there to make the most of it. To my mind, this cross-fertilisation between a designer and a vibrant manufacturing base recalls 1950s America, where the technologies of the war effort and a new focus on the importance of design combined to create a generation of iconic furniture. Also inspiring is Young's eco and social conscience. Manufacturing in aluminium rather than plastic ensures a more pleasurable tactile experience for the user but, more importantly, it is a sustainable product that will last a lifetime and create more jobs than its plastic equivalent. Chair 4A points the way to an exciting future.'