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LINO

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Wonderful Wellington
Dawn Delaney on East Timor
Hokonui Fashion Awards NZ
Design Excellence Queensland
Stefano Canturi
BINOCULAR: Looking Closely at Country
Trophies of Modern Architecture

07

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Johnny Çhåmaki focuses

Sometimes when you aren't having a great day, something wonderful happens. This day was when Johnny Chamaki knocked on the door without an appointment and asked to show his portfolio. Walking by, he saw the current LINO cover poster in our Foveaux Street window in Surry Hills. I agreed to see him and I'm glad I did. It was hard to believe the portfolio I was viewing was the work of the young man who sat opposite me.

Johnny Chamaki was born New Years Day 1969 in Tehran, Iran. His family moved to Sydney in the early 70's. A creatively gifted child, he made his own toys, easily turned his hand to painting and showed a certain business acumen, selling various art works to his friend's parents. He was 10 years old.

A teacher recognised his potential as a designer when he created a helmet based on the Ned Kelly mask. His interest in Ned Kelly continues. His 'Outlaw Chair' with arm rests is based on the black silhouetted Sidney Nolan paintings of Kelly. Each part of the chair carefully relates to Kelly's gun-battle scenes. The arm rests represent the guns being fired, while the three holes in the seat depict bullet holes in Kelly's Armour. This curved beech plywood and tubular steel-legged chair is a masterpiece.

on the future

Chamaki completed a Bachelor of Architecture at the University of Technology, Sydney (UTS) in 1996 and was awarded most talented designer of his year. Other design awards and accolades followed. He received the Emerging Designer Award 2002 and the 9th International Design Award from Japan, for which Chamaki is the only student winner in its 10 years history.

"As a Designer," he commented, "I am always keen to push hard for new forms which are elastic, erotic and organic. My design ideas are based on nature, particularly insects. Designing should be fun, new and exciting. We put pictures on walls to admire them, so why not pieces of furniture?"

In 2000, Chamaki established Johnny Chamaki Design Studio focusing on furniture, objects, interiors and architecture. His mission is to provide designs which embody art, design, science and technology.

www.johnnychamaki.com

"We're well into this new millennium of information and technology. Ideas for design will need to adapt to these criteria without reservation. I am optimistic about the future and think it will be an exciting age for the world of design. Our world of today will perhaps look a little different as we continue to develop and invent new technology. I look forward to being part of this exciting age," he said.

Other publications have recognised this young man's potential. This year alone articles about his work have appeared in *Modern Design & Things*, Chicago, USA, *Art/Design 909*, Melbourne, Australia, *OM Magazine*, Russia, *Space Form World*, Vancouver, Canada and in 2003, *Design Ikio* a design and architecture magazine in Japan. We are happy for him to add LINO to his collection of admirers.