

The *Cabinet Maker* Young Designer award attracted a record 78 entries this year. Rachel Calton looks at the dozen finalists vying for the title

Grand entrance



Left: Peter Conolly's Shelf system

Below: Polly Westergaard's Orb chair

Almost 80 entries were received for the *Cabinet Maker* Young Designers award, from universities and colleges across the country. The judges – Hugh Elliot, Alchemede founder; Shaun Davies, Media Lounge director; Gareth Griffiths, Dovetail md and Andrew Kidd, *Cabinet Maker* deputy editor – praised the overall standard of the entries. 'There is a high level of commercial awareness and some exceptional presentations,' they said.

Having reduced the entries down to the 12 finalists, the judges now face the task of deciding a winner. This will take place at The Interiors Event on 21 January at the Young Designers stand in Collection in Hall 8. The winner is expected to be announced at 11.30am.



Peter Connolly

The Shelf innovative flatpack modular system by Peter Connolly focuses on functionality, meanwhile ensuring that aesthetics are not compromised in the process.

Using injection mould tooling for the front and rear fascias, combined with the simplicity of cold forming sheet material, keeps manufacturing costs for the product low. And with only three simple lightweight components, the system can be easily transported, stored and assembled.

The inner core – of 3mm foamed PVC – can have any print added to the surface so the system can be incorporated into any decor, while the outer casting of 3mm Poly Prop adds structure to the system.

'This has good use of technologies and materials to produce flexible storage materials. It has a multitude of uses,' said the judges.

Polly Westergaard

The contemporary Orb lounge chair, designed by Polly Westergaard, is designed to combine comfort with style. The unusual asymmetrical



Ria Poynton

The Storalmamp by Ria Poynton is a multifunctional lamp and storage unit providing a warm glow of light for hallways or the corner of a room, while providing safekeeping for small but essential items. The drawers in the lamp can be rotated or removed, allowing the intensity of the light source to be adjusted.

'This has lots of applications but we really see it as a bedside table. A plethora of furniture pieces try to do more than one thing and usually fall flat – this works,' commented the judges.

Kate Crowther

The Slide Storage System by Kate Crowther was designed to tackle the lack of storage space within a small living space, bringing walls into use as a storage area. The shelves slide into the unit allowing a degree of interaction and adaptability to suit individual needs, and is based on either single or double bed sizes.

'This is a simple, multifunctional design with lots of potential,' according to the judges.

Geoff Machen

The Lounger, by Geoff Machen, is part of the Schema range: a trio of chairs that challenge traditional forms. The concept is to refashion proportions, with radically low profile chair frames complemented by exaggerated seat cushions that penetrate the frame. The range is designed for the contract market and home environment, and can be upholstered to customer specification, keeping it versatile. The chair is made from American black walnut, plywood and 100% wool fabric.

'This is really confident, direct shapes. The way the upholstery and the frame combine is excellent,' said the judges. 'It's incredibly fluid design.'

Oliver van der Breggen

Bedside Cabinet by Oliver van der Breggen is one of a family of bedroom furniture in solid American black walnut and maple. The collection is based on movement, and inspired by forms from the mechanical world, apparent in the drawer fronts. The cabinet – a blend of traditional craftsmanship and innovative design – combines simplicity and functionality with emphasis on the form and beauty of the natural wood grain. The tones contrast a light interior with the dark-wood piece.

'Effectively a modular unit, its surface is dramatic without being intrusive. It's refreshing and it's commercial,' said the judges.

Above: Ria Poynton's Storalmamp

Above right: Kate Crowther's Slide Storage System

Right: Geoff Machen's The Lounger

Below: Oliver van der Breggen's Bedside Cabinet

