



## Upcoming star

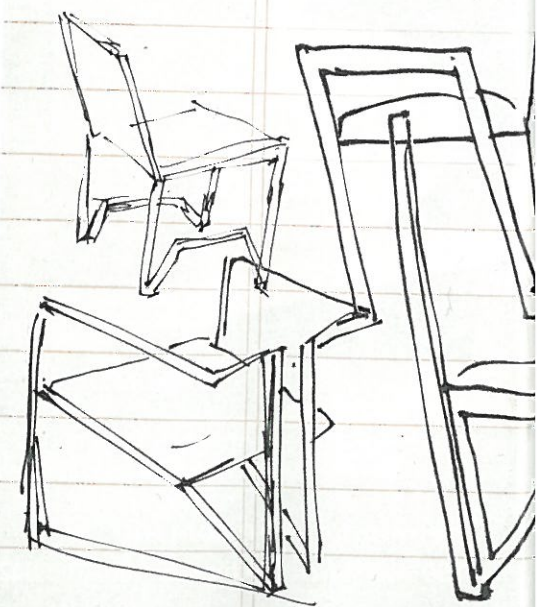
To develop local talent, Covemore Designs launches an internship scheme with the help of the Whitehouse Institute of Design

Covemore Designs, with its links to the iconic Parker Furniture brand, is where emerging designers want to start their careers. Samantha Lloyd-Holmes (above) knows this well – she's secured the first place in its new Studio internship scheme, which is running in conjunction with the Whitehouse Institute of Design.

A third-year interior-design student at Whitehouse, 20-year-old Samantha has been working closely with Covemore Designs to develop a new collection of furniture, to be launched in September.

Covering all areas of design, from idea generation to prototyping and production, it's been a fast and furious experience for the young intern, but she's loved it. "I knew it would be a great opportunity to jump in the deep end and really learn about the industry. Covemore Designs' history as a manufacturer is something I admire and so, to become a part of that, and to do something for my career at the same time, was a golden opportunity," she says.

For more information, visit [www.covemore.com.au](http://www.covemore.com.au) or [whitehouse-design.edu.au](http://whitehouse-design.edu.au).



"Nothing is hidden," says Cecilie Manz (above) of her designs, which include the upfront and functional (clockwise from top right) 'Essay' table, 'Pluralis' chair/table, 'Caravaggio' light and 'Simplicity' vase.

## Cecilie Manz

*Casting aside fuss and embellishment, this designer's works share a complex and intellectual approach to form and function* WORDS CLARE PATIENCE

Coming home from school, young Cecilie Manz wasn't one to laze on the couch to watch endless TV shows; instead, she would busy herself in her parents' design studio, watching them carefully craft ceramics with their hands. From a tender age, Manz was educated in an appreciation for the link between form and function. "Your surroundings are really important, especially when you're young," she says. "As ceramists, my parents were concerned with aesthetics, and I was surrounded by their works. They encouraged me to consider design – I was always in their studio, and my first job was in the workshop."

With pieces in the Danish Design Centre and New York's Museum Of Modern Art, Manz has grown into one of Denmark's most prolific designers. Her impressive body of work is defined by a sense of purpose and refinement: the pared-back beauty of her most striking creations – such as the 'Caravaggio' and 'Mondrian' lights for Lightyears and the 'Essay' table for Fritz Hansen – are breathtakingly beautiful in their stark simplicity and exemplify the evolution of Manz's minimalist style.

"When I started thinking about the 'Caravaggio' light, my primary aim was to ensure the piece was extremely simple," she says. "The resulting design has no secrets. Nothing is hidden; you can see all the parts,

and everything within the design is integral to its function – which is exactly what I intended for the piece."

The simplicity of form belies Manz's ingenious approach to workmanship, which places the emphasis back on the pure functionality of a product. "Light is at the centre of [artist] Caravaggio's works," says Manz. "The actual light is the thing of beauty, and that's what I want to emphasise."

Growing up with long dark winters, Manz's Northern Hemisphere upbringing has also informed her relationship with illumination. "In Denmark and Scandinavia, we use light as a way to create a sense of intimacy; we gather around our lights, which are hung very low over the dining table," she says, "and we focus on the gathering, which is what light should do."

Manz's designs are created to sit together in harmony, and her mind is beginning to tick over with the possibility of a new creative direction. "I still need to do a chair, I always seem to avoid it, but I'm thinking about it more and more and I'm getting used to the idea that one day I will do a chair," she says. ❖

Cecilie Manz's furniture is available through Corporate Culture, [www.corporateculture.com.au](http://www.corporateculture.com.au), and glassware from Great Dane, (03) 9510 6111, [www.greatdanefurniture.com](http://www.greatdanefurniture.com). For more details on Cecilie, visit [www.cecilie Manz.com](http://www.cecilie Manz.com).