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DECORITA Decorita: Cool is as cool does

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SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Sometimes you've just got to ease into modern design.

As a warm-up to the Interior Design Show at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre last weekend, DecoRita did a drive-by at the Royal Ontario Museum and the supremely eco-friendly show, *Cut/Paste: Creative Reuse in Canadian Design* exhibit – which closes Sunday. Some of the pieces are cheeky: Rona hardware appropriated a multi-coloured iPod billboard ad in Montreal, hung below the image of paint dripping from the iPods its own banner showing the colour trails being collected in paint tins. With the Rona logo it states, "We collect leftover paint."

Some are whimsical – like the Philippe Starck chair converted into a lamp by designer/artist Tobias Wong.

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A wire and resin ballerina by Sophie DeFrancesca is "hand-stitched and hand-calloused," and perches prettily at the Interior Design Show.

All are the penultimate in inventive recycling: A clock made up of men's ties; a chandelier constructed from paper clips; a toboggan fashioned into a coffee table; a doormat assembled from defunct blackboard erasers.

Checking out the Museum Shop downstairs, DecoRita admired the flexible love chair, which expands to seat eight people because it is made from corrugated cardboard shored up by wooden sides. It is priced at a hefty \$1,499.99, which is not so steep if you amortize it for a party of eight.

Onto the main event: the Interior Design Show, Canada's largest contemporary design event showcasing the newest and coolest international and Canadian products.

Our favourite installation/exhibit had to be the media/VIP Lounge, where they were pouring Veuve Clicquot.

We loved *Suite 22 Interiors*. They had us at the *Ricky's Life Story* simulation on a TV screen complete with the iconic *I Love Lucy* heart. The booth had awesome set decoration: purple Lucite ghost chairs; a fuchsia bra slung over a clock above the bed; and a spider-web chandelier perfect for Miss Havisham of *Great Expectations*.

We were drawn to *Fine Art Furniture* because of their aluminum deer heads and perforated Victorian stools, chairs and coffee tables. Some of the chairs looked like oversized metal strainers.

But we were totally blown away by contributions from the Ontario College of Art & Design.

We gave Vincent J. Monastero's witty "New George" chair three thumbs up. It had what appeared to be three digits on the right arm of the chair (vincentmonastero@gmail.com).

And Haniyeh Khosravi Fard's clever "XY" chair is an exercise in 1001 ways to use bungee chords (kh_haniyeh@hotmail.com).

We can always rely on *Snob* to stop us in our tracks. Denise Zidel sources her inventory from Africa and this year's show stopper was an Ethiopian birthing bed used as a bench and draped with a Yoruba belt from Nigeria. We were also turned on by the Egyptian hanging lights made of brass and ideal for bathroom or dining room. And we weren't the only ones: They are featured on the cover of *Elle Decor U.K.*, the decorating bible.

Kudos to the *Palazzetti* booth, where we were gobsmacked over his-and-hers chairs moulded to the appropriate respective butts. "Her" is modeled after the Beyoncé or J.Lo posterior and "Him" is more for the tight end.

And just when we thought we had seen it all, there was *Oeno Gallery*, one-stop shopping for painting, paper work, sculpture, glass, outdoor art and art lectures, and were seduced by the ballerina in a chair sculpture by Sophie DeFrancesca priced at \$7,700. It is made of chicken wire and resin, and sculpted by hand. Granted, the asking price is not exactly chicken feed, but "it is hand-stitched and hand-calloused," we were told.

Ready set, shop: The economy can now unclench.

We are free to commence shopping once again come Monday.

We have survived a month of non-shopping (except for essentials like toiletries and wine) in aid of the "I QUIT" fundraising campaign for CAMH (The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health).

Thank you for your donations. We have met our \$1,000 challenge.

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Read more from the Interior Design Show in the [Yourhome.ca Editor's Blog](#).



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