



IT'S VERY VERY

Haworth has added a new member to its impressive range of workplace furniture – 'Very'. This chair's signature square back with angular cut-out is interpreted four ways – as a 'Very' conference chair, a 'Very' seminar chair with intuitive recline, a 'Very' side chair with gentle flexing back or a 'Very' wire stacking chair. Its range of colours, options for a solid, perforated or upholstered back, and armrest and castor additions, all combine to make a family of diverse aesthetics and functionality. 'Very' follows in the footsteps of the popular Haworth 'AllWays' workstation, which features in key Australian workplaces such as Google Australia (see p70) while Haworth supplied all of the furniture to the Macquarie One Shelley Street project (see next issue *Indesign #41*). Haworth CEO Franco Bianchi was in Sydney recently for the launch of the new showroom and commented: "Australia is very progressive in its approach to design. We want to listen and have an intelligent conversation – we want to find out what fits with this region, not provide a cookie cutter approach." [Text: PC]

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TIMBER CYCLE

While the idea of a wooden bicycle is not new, for the first time Gary Galego has resolved a lightweight, hardy timber for the 'Carbonwood' bicycle. A completely new plywood composite made of wood veneer, carbon fibre and glue was used for the frame of the bike, offering a tactile, renewable and high performance material. The veneers are laid in the same direction along the frame, making the most of its strength, while a much thinner and lighter carbon fibre cloth is placed against the veneer to make up the conventional plywood structure. "Wood has a remarkable fatigue life that exceeds that of steel and aluminium, due in part to a tree's ability to resist constant bending and twisting from the wind for its entire life," says Galego. 'Carbonwood' was a finalist in 2009's Bombay Sapphire Design Discovery Award. [Text: PC] (Photo: Craig Wall)

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LEARNING FROM THE BEST

The shared experience of the Glenn Murcutt International Architecture Master Class unites architects from 46 countries. Students who join the bush retreat are there to re-learn the most fundamental lessons of architecture from some of Australia's most respected practitioners. Glenn Murcutt is joined by Brit Andresen, Peter Stutchbury, Richard Leplastrier and Lindsay Johnson in guiding students during a design exercise sited near Murcutt's monastic Boyd Education Centre on the Shoalhaven river, 200 kilometres south of Sydney. Students spend the first week in residence at the centre, followed by a week in the studios of Sydney University's Architecture faculty, where they present their final completed schemes. The 10th International Glenn Murcutt Masterclass will be held 11–25 July 2010. [Text: Nic Moore]

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