

BENCHMARK APPOINTS AWARD WINNING YOUNG DESIGNER

Bespoke furniture and specialist woodworker Benchmark has appointed award winning design graduate Jason Heap to its design team. The young designer graduated with a BA (Hons) in Furniture from the University of Lincoln this summer. He recently won a prestigious 2007 Wood Award in the furniture category for his timber and glass table entitled Infinity + 1. In winning the award Jason's work was selected among hundreds of entries from leading designers and well established woodworkers.

Benchmark founder and managing director Sean Sutcliffe said of the appointment: "We have traditionally looked to the graduate shows for the best and brightest young design talent. Jason's designs in sustainably sourced timbers are very much in keeping with our own ethos and way of working. His work, which takes inspiration from the natural environment and his use of natural materials in a sympathetic way are also akin to the Benchmark philosophy."

(Jason will be working at Benchmark's design studio and workshops in Kintbury, West Berkshire as well as at the company's sister company Litton Furniture based in Dorset which makes bespoke furniture and interiors for the luxury sector.)

Jason's work was exhibited this September at Tent London, a diverse exhibition of art, architecture and design by emerging and established artists and at New Designers which highlights the best of graduate design. His work was also showcased in August at the New Forest Trust's Fine Crafted Wood Exhibition.

Founded in 1983 by Terence Conran and Sean Sutcliffe, Benchmark handles commercial commissions from leading architects and interior designers. It also makes a domestic furniture range sold direct to the public at workshop prices. The company recently won the Queen's Award for Enterprise in Sustainable Development, the first furniture maker to receive this prestigious award.

Ends

Send with image of Infinity + 1 and infinity plus image of Jason