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R E P O R T S

Furniture

Manufacturers set their sights on CIRCULARITY.
CLASSICS enjoy a revival in Copenhagen.
The living room extends into the OUTDOORS.
Discover what's driving the business of design.

Aine Lemard

FULL CIRCLE

Responsive manufacturers promote SUSTAINABILITY in the furniture industry.

‘Circular Economy Opportunities in the Furniture Sector’, a report commissioned by the European Environmental Bureau and produced by Eunomia Research & Consulting Ltd, states that ‘10 million tonnes of furniture are discarded by businesses and consumers in EU Member States each year, the majority of which is destined for either landfill or incineration’. The 2017 study was intended to trigger a debate on circularity in the furniture industry, a discussion involving

an increasing awareness of the sector’s impact on the environment and subsequent heightened concerns. It was meant to prompt manufacturers to investigate everything from their supply chains to the sustainability, longevity and recyclability of their end products.

At this year’s Stockholm Design Week, Kinnarps announced its Better Effect Index, described as ‘the first comprehensive sustainability tool on the market’, which allows consumers to make better choices in an easier way. The tool rates products in six areas, from their effect on the climate to their social accountability. Ultimately, Kinnarps would like to see the algorithm adopted by a variety of industries worldwide. — FK

Exploring new ways to reuse consumer and industrial waste, Emeco puts environmentally responsible resources into its products. Jasper Morrison’s 1 Inch collection is composed of reclaimed wood, recycled plastic and aluminium.



Stockholm-based Massproductions is a proponent of using industrial production to make responsible, sustainable furniture. The company’s Rose Chair, a design by founding partner Chris Martin, is made to stand the test of time, both functionally and aesthetically.



Besides reducing factory waste, Ton achieves sustainability with products designed to last a lifetime, such as Michal Riabčí’s solid-wood Chop table with fold-out sections.



Ecobirdy turns discarded plastic toys into furniture for kids. The brand also developed a school programme to get children excited about the circular economy.



As part of the Scrap Life Project, Spreng & Sonntag and Studio Stabil used the by-product of an Italian company’s injection-moulding process to create a series of stools – of which no two are alike.

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