



# wood work

Farm life and the medium of wood inspires young designer David Krynauw to create his 'honest', pared-down pieces



THIS PAGE, FROM LEFT A vintage Eames rocking chair and cow hide in one of the children's bedrooms; in another bedroom, a wall painted in magnetic paint creates a handy pinboard for postcards and artworks. The lamp is from Artemide

# DESIGN SHOWCASE



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**WHO** Born and bred on a farm in Mpumalanga, David Krynauw is a young furniture designer specialising in sustainable wooden products.

**CLAIM TO FAME** David makes all his pieces from locally salvaged wood – his well-known hand-turned pendant lamps, for example, are made from discarded jacaranda stumps. In 2008 he won the Eskom Energy Efficient Lighting Design Competition in the professional category, and in 2010 his wooden chandelier was nominated as a Most Beautiful Object in South Africa at the 2010 Design Indaba.

**HOW IT ALL BEGAN** 'Some of my earliest memories are of me helping my dad in his workshop. As I wasn't allowed to work on any of the dangerous machines, he gave me free reign of the lathe – so I've been turning wood from as early as 11 years old. An interest in wine led to a Bsc degree in Encology and Viticulture, while making furniture on the side to earn extra money. But after two seasons working at a prestigious vineyard in the Cape and a stint in California, I realised that wine making wasn't for me. So I went back to the farm in Mpumalanga to see if I could work my way up to eventually earning a living, doing what I really love. At first I thought that being based in the middle of nowhere was going to be my downfall, but three years down the line this decision has proven to be the best one of my life.'

**DESIGN PHILOSOPHY** 'My philosophy is simple: to always design with integrity. As long as I enjoy what I am doing, I believe there will always be an audience to appreciate my work.'

**INSPIRATION** 'Wood is such an amazing material – my best ideas come to me when I'm playing around with the medium. I'm quite a daydreamer so it's easy for me to get carried away with new ideas, and it helps to live in such a peaceful environment. I try not to be influenced too much by trends; I think it's important to trust one's own feelings and intuition.'

**ACHIEVEMENTS** 'Receiving recognition from experts in the industry has been my greatest reward so far. The fact that people are actually interested in buying my handcrafted work is also a huge achievement – to some this might seem silly, but three years ago this was only a dream for me.'

Visit [www.davidkrynauw.com](http://www.davidkrynauw.com)

