



flower-shaped side table "Lucky"

sea.t.able a combination long bench and side table.



Teamwork

Clean lines, local materials and vibrant colour – that's Yuniic. What was born from the need to furnish an empty flat has become one of Zurich's hippest new designer labels.

by Sabine Schweizer



wing chair



**Thierry Villaveja and
Christina Primschitz**
Zeltweg 57
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tel. 01 252 69 36
www.yuniic.ch

Prices range from CHF430 for 'lovely', a painted metal chair with bright cushions to CHF2570 for sea.t.able. Items from Yuniic are available at Punkt1 and Einzigart in Zurich, and Booster in Lausanne or they can be ordered online at www.yuniic.ch.

Christina Primschitz had just finished her interior design degree in Milan, and Thierry Villaveja was working in the metal industry, when, like many young couples, they moved in together and found themselves in a shell of a flat. And so it all began. In the evenings and in their spare time they began making tables, chairs and accessories for their new home.

By May 2002, their do-it-yourself hobby had blossomed into 'Yuniic', pronounced 'unique'.

Their training and skills complement each other – Primschitz develops the ideas and Villaveja decides on the way they are constructed.

"It's so exciting to hold the finished item in your hands for the first time. You never know what it will look like. Our pieces are like our babies," says Villaveja.

The designers' trademark lies in the use of colours, or shapes, like their flower-shaped side table Lucky.

"The world is serious enough" claims Primschitz, "colours make people happy."

And they've made a lot of people very happy indeed. Their first exhibition was at

Blickfang 03 where their wing chair raised a few eyebrows. The new, funky and, most importantly, comfortable design became one of the most popular items at the exhibition. The couple watched, as people looked curiously at the piece, debated its merits and then tried it out for themselves. The designers say the chair's charm lies in the many ways you can sit on it.

For this team it's important to create for themselves and not for the mainstream. They aim for socially responsible design, ruling out cheap imported timber or fabrics because of their negative environmental and social impact. Each piece is made in Zurich.

Villaveja still works full-time in construction supporting Primschitz in the business. They don't want to become rich, but hope to be able to make a living with their designs eventually.

Today, their first apartment resembles a showroom, while they look for a studio where they can both work and display their pieces. So for now, until they find a new space, you might just get a cup of coffee if you visit their furniture collection.

Sabine Schweizer, from Switzerland, is a freelance design writer based in Zurich. She has previously lived in the Netherlands and Northern Ireland and has a passion for furniture and interiors.