

Young designers put creativity to work

By MARY KLEMIC
At Home Editor

This gives a different twist – and curve and shape – to “student homework.”

The annual student exhibit of the Center for Creative Studies-College of Art and Design features fun and fantastic furniture by the CCS Interior Design Department. This work for the home celebrates creativity and encourages you to furnish your spaces with imagination.

You can visit now to Sunday, May 25, to see samples of young designers' talent – and maybe select one or more pieces for yourself.

Models of houses and studios, a variety of furnishings and items for the home including doors and boxes, as well as art works are also among the more than 2,500 items on display.

Department chair Bill House waxed ecstatic over the work in this year's show, calling it “tremendous.”

“The pieces are very adventurous, not traditional,” House said.

Jak Wonderly of Indiana created “The Indigo Chair.” This chair and matching footstool, in gemlike blue shades, were made by hand of paper twine and recycled clothes. Both items' shapes curve and twist gently, cradling and supporting the body.

“The concept was to build a frame and use the weave as the structure of

the piece,” said Wonderly, whose two-tier serving cart of steel and Ponderosa blue pine is also displayed. “The material becomes the structure.”

The fun of the project was in the experimentation, he said.

“That was the idea, to get away from the usual... techniques of the chair.”

Experimentation led Kevin Grawey of Royal Oak to his bench or coffee table, which he may name “Surf Bench.”

“I was working vertically to begin with,” Grawey said.

The piece is made of plywood and bent maple. It is a harmony of flowing forms, including a slender arm on one end that extends as if beckoning a visitor.

Jesús Piney of Farmington Hills was looking to design something for the outdoors. His “Oasis” is a unit with a shower on one side and a sink on the other that can serve as outdoor sculpture when not in use.

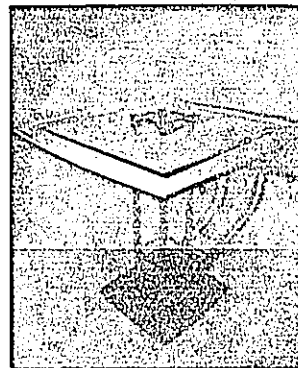
The graceful, narrow unit suggests a fluid motion in many areas – such as the pitcher-like “lip” at the top of one side, and the tapering shelves that resemble waves reaching out of the surface.

Brian Clemens of Bay City fashioned a dining room table that has a sleek, sophisticated, Art Deco look.

“I was trying to design something that was timeless and classic,” Clemens said.



Creativity at work: This year's student exhibit of the Center for Creative Studies-College of Art and Design features a variety of furnishings. Jak Wonderly (above) poses by his gently curving chair and footstool that were made by hand of paper twine and recycled clothes. Brian Clemens of Bay City designed a sleek dining room table (at right).



Slender black painted metal rods extend up through the center of the maple table top from a flat metal base, and could house condiments or napkins. The table top is accented with a black square. The table could fit especially well in a small studio or a restaurant, Clemens said.

Cronin also fashioned an entryway cart, a combination table/umbrella stand, of maple, aluminum and canvas. Drawers are on one side, bearing metal curbs for handles. The other side curves to hold umbrellas or canes, and features a large Oriental design, a laser image by CCS photography students.

Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday-Sunday on the CCS campus, 201 E. Kirby at John R in Detroit.

Admission is free. Call (313) 872-9463 for information.

Interior design was recently added to the list of majors at the college.

The Lear Corp. sponsors the exhibit. Additional support is provided by LDM Technologies, Thyssen Inc., MSX International, Chevrolet Creative Group and Little Caesar's Enterprises.

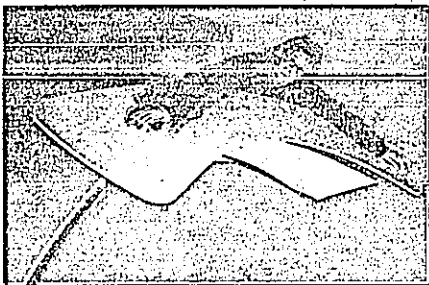
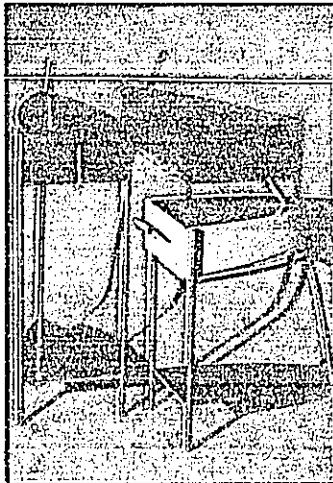


Table discussion: Kevin Grawey of Royal Oak (above) designed a bench or coffee table of plywood and bent maple that is a harmony of flowing forms. James Cronin's “Scooter Tables” (right) of maple plywood, walnut and steel give a sense of motion. Staff photos by Sharon LeMieux.



“Scooter Table” is what James Cronin of Dallas called each of his three dynamic pieces, which are made of maple plywood and steel; one has a walnut drawer. They give a sense of motion, each with an iron shape, a small, angled steel rod rising out of the top, and a thin, elongated handle.

The iron form is also in the drawer and a low shelf underneath. The tables could go in an entryway or by the bedside, Cronin said.

“(They're for) younger people who move a lot; a place to throw your keys,” he said.

On the cover

“Oasis”: Jesús Piney of Farmington Hills designed a shower and sink unit that can serve as outdoor sculpture as well. Staff photo by Sharon LeMieux.