

Slack.

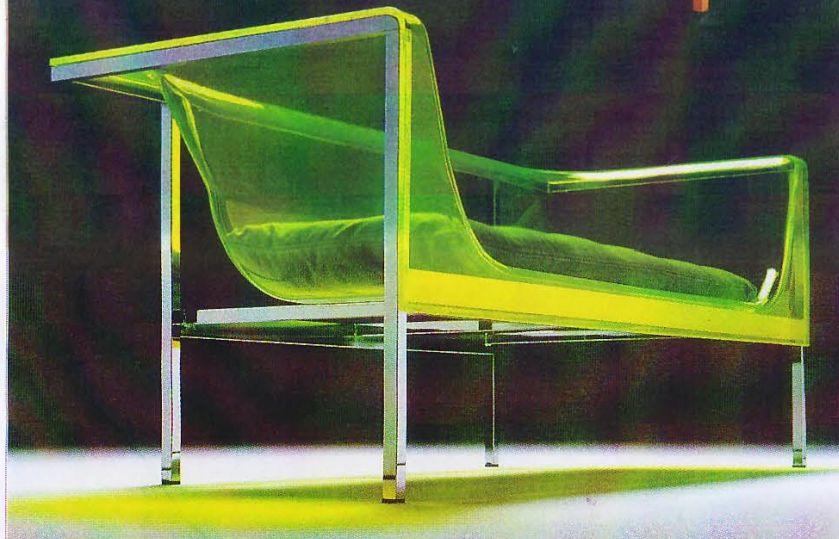
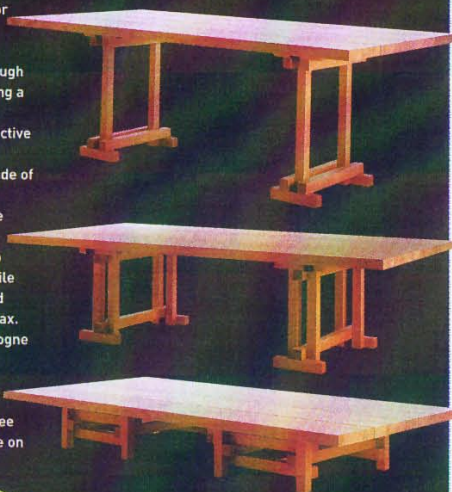
Designer bean bags

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Pretty practical The star is in the ascendancy for British designers Peter Emrys-Roberts and Christine Harvey. The husband-and-wife dream team, who established Era Studio in 1997, managed to break through the tight ranks of Italian design houses and were among a handful chosen by the prestigious Milanese company Driade to create a range of clever, practical and attractive furniture. Reminiscent of Charles Eames's fibreglass chairs, the duo's funky two-seater Phantom sofa is made of coloured acrylic. Because of its transparent, almost ethereal form, it doesn't appear to take up much space and would suit Hong Kong's compact homes. The elegant Level table in solid American oak can be set to three heights – dining, coffee and Japanese style – while the cosy Tipto easy chair with splayed chrome legs and asymmetrical curved body lures you to curl up and relax.

Era's collection for Driade was launched at the Cologne Furniture Fair in January and appeared at the Milan Furniture Fair a fortnight ago. Although the collection is not on show in Hong Kong, items can be ordered from a catalogue at Le Cadre Gallery (Ruttonjee House, 11 Duddell Street, Central). Prices are available on inquiry; call Le Cadre on 2524 1068.



Bona fide boutique Touted as Hong Kong's first boutique hotel, Le Meridien Cyberport may defy the rules of chic by having 173 rooms rather than the usual 20 or so, but it has the requisite design clout to fit the label. The interior design of the hotel, which opened last Thursday, was taken on by local firm LRF [www.lrfdesign.com] and Wilson of Singapore. The project architects, responsible for the whole Cyberport development, were Arquitectonica [www.arquitectonica.com]. Up-lit etched-glass walls behind the beds provide a refreshing departure from bland art works [bottom]; furniture, most of which was custom-designed by LRF, is light and contemporary, and 42-inch, flat-screen plasma televisions show the age of the antique-style TV cabinet is over. Bathrooms [below] are no less design conscious, with glass-walled walk-in rain showers big enough for two, fibreglass scales, quilted face towels and Hermes beauty products. Smart lighting and a wireless workstation add a dash of cutting-edge technology. The opening rate is \$1,250 a night, including a \$500 dining voucher for one of the hotel's restaurants. Call 2980 7788 for further information.



Bag of tricks Lounge lizards wanting to inject retro style into their homes might like to check out Slack's latest range of designer beanbags (see www.slackbeanbags.com). Inspired by the colours and designs of the 60s and 70s, the ModDeck series combines stripes of faux fur with super-soft-grain faux leather, which is durable and easy to clean. The beanbags come in four colours – black with white fur, brown with orange fur, and white with red or pink fur – and can be shaped into a variation on an upright chair with headrest or a doughnut-

seat. They cost \$1,299 each (including filling) and are available from the Beanbag City showroom (Unit A1, 9/F, Evergreen Mansion, 12 Yip Fat Street, Aberdeen, tel: 8109 6955), city'super in Times Square, Festival Walk in Kowloon Tong and branches of Bookazine in Prince's Building, Central; Pacific House, Queen's Road Central; and the Far East Finance Centre, Admiralty.



Red-dot specials If you have an eye for a design classic and want a bargain to boot, Pacific Décor might be the answer to your prayers. The outlet is having a stock clearance sale with sought-after items such as Eames plastic chairs going for about \$1,300 each. Its miniature models of classic chairs from the Vitra Design Museum are also on sale. Call 2520 2122 with inquiries or visit www.pacificdecor.com. If you have always coveted a piece of famous hand-blown Murano glass from Venice, Cleto Munari (Shop 2039, 2/F, tel: 2899 2009; www.cletomunari.com) is offering a 20 per cent discount on its Chromatic Transparencies collection until Tuesday.