

Takeshi Lue



"I want to make things that I like but they need to tell stories about who I am and what sort of ideas I have"

Takeshi Lue's design practice is distinctive in that he regards self-identity as central to the forms he creates. While seeing himself as 'an internationalist', drawing ideas from a broad range of sources, he acknowledges that traditional and contemporary Japanese design values influence his practice. This is evident in his use of minimal forms, absence of decoration and preference for natural finishes. Minimalist form he believes works symbolically to create calmness and relaxation. The artist is attracted to the idea of forms nesting and interlocking and has continued to produce groups of related works such as sets of stackable stools and tables.

Inspiration

Of *Home* Takeshi comments: "Both my partner and I have busy lifestyles. People like us need somewhere to come back to get away from this kind of lifestyle. I wanted to create a place, not a piece. For me this place had to

be as quiet as possible. To be calm and relaxing."

Visualisation

Working from diagrams and models is important for Lue. The artist built small scale balsa wood models of *Home* and also generated dot point drawings. The dot points represented measured extremity points of a seated human body (the artist's). His diagrams are technical in character and reflect the need to allow for fine calibrations in measurement. Modelling through diagrams and balsa wood model also identified the need to have a single unit table top rather than a (structurally weaker) top unit formed by the conjunction of two smaller units supporter by arms (see *Home* models 1 & 2).

Process

Home is constructed of sheets of American walnut veneered on mdf (medium density fibre) board. Solid

walnut timber has been used for the table top and all edges. The artist painstakingly applied veneer to all edges and exposed location points. He also designed a special lock to fix the arms and table top in position once the unit was fully extended. This was not allowed for in the initial design but was incorporated once it was evident that the structure needed additional securing. The artist sees value in needing to work out his own design solutions to the point of manufacturing one-off units (such the spring loaded lock for *Home*) as he knows that he can carry this knowledge and skill into future projects.

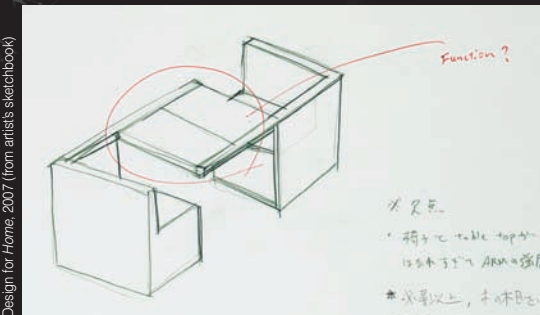
Realisation

Home is a flexible unit which can be closed to create a sculptural presence or useful bench top within a room or opened to become a dining unit for two people. The arms extending towards each other and joining are symbolic. They represent two people coming



Home, 2007, American walnut veneer on medium density fibre (mdf), top: solid walnut, 730 x 1080 x 600 (closed) Photograph: Grant Hancock

together in one place. The concept of home is extended by the artist's emphasis on back-lighting in photographic images of this work which creates a sense of a dwelling. The lights are on. Somebody's waiting for another to arrive.



Design for *Home*, 2007 (from artist's sketchbook)

Model for *Home* 1, 2007, balsa wood, 70 x 120 x 60 Photograph: Mick Bradley



design FOR TABLE TOP
plug (lock system)

