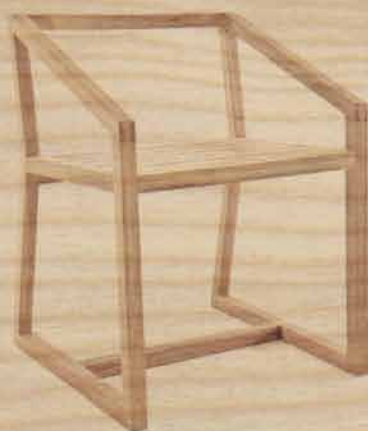


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# A CHIP OFF THE OLD BLOCK

Photos **BRETT RUBIN**  
Production **KLARA VAN WYNGAARDEN**  
Production assistant **ANE MATTHEE**



It's no secret that solid wood is expensive, not always eco-friendly and often quite dated. Good news is that designers are experimenting with plywood, chipboard, cork and bamboo – with delightful results.

## **NO MAN IS AN ISLAND**

Graphic designer turned self-proclaimed “imagineer” Ian Kelynaek is the name behind the Isle of Trees – a fictional place where ideas become reality. Initially the plan was that Isle of Trees would function as a collective of creatives collaborating on a variety of projects. Ian found a work space and, while he waited for projects to start rolling in, kept himself busy making furniture pieces for his new office.

These products attracted quite some attention at the 2011 Design Indaba, where Ian won the award for the Most Creative Stand, and

now they are in high demand. Combining technology and traditional wood, Ian crafts all the pieces himself – from wall hooks made of salvaged pine to a digitally printed fold-up table and innovative flexible shelving system.

For Ian it is not just about products, but rather a way of thinking. His intention is that by buying his products, customers are also helping to save rare trees. “All the wood used for our furniture comes from sustainable forests or alien species harvested for the protection of the Western Cape’s indigenous fynbos,” he says.

• Isle of Trees, 082 326 2554, [www.isleoftrees.co.za](http://www.isleoftrees.co.za)



## **WOOD YOU BELIEVE**

These days, there's a lot more to wood than we thought. From textiles to wall tiles, bamboo to cork, we're thoroughly inspired.

**FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:** Axelle rattan chair, R1 200 and Jules bamboo chair, R999, La Grange; Bias Bar Stool with cork cushion by Adriaan Hugo, R2 500, Co-op; Ring wood side table, R2 495, Weylands; Bamboo storage box, R303, Santos.