

FORT GANSEVOORT

THE FACE

Kit out your gaff

Carpets that look like bacon and sofas that look like loaves of bread. Plus plenty of things that don't resemble food and will make your home look heavenly.

Words: TJ Sidhu - 30th September 2020



How's your savings account looking? Should be all right, no? You've spent more time at home this year than ever before – not out of choice, though, oh no. You have been “saving lives” and, as a result, the nationwide lockdown has prevented you from drinking, eating, grinding and the rest ever since BoJo pulled down the corona curtain in mid-March. So... without pints to sip, Big Macs to scoff and Tube rides to get you into work during those sorry months, how's your savings account looking?

If it's less student, more proper adult, you should probably consider investing your hard-saved-cash on kitting out your home. Because, chances are your humble abode has become a sort of second skin where, like it or not, you're

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spending 90 per cent of your time. Pubs still don't feel *normal* normal, and nightclubs are out of the question. Meanwhile, working from home is the new working-working – we're past sleeping in and fooling our bosses that we're up and raring to go. Tehe.

The designers we profile here are producing really good stuff. Through their chairs and coffee tables, light fixtures and candle holders, they're proving that furniture design doesn't have to be the preserve of wafty poshos and middle-class dads with workshops in their back gardens. Instead, this lot are showing us what the future of furniture design can look like: a little bit bonkers, very much thoughtful, and even a bit sexy. And made by sound people, too. Just don't expect any of them to know what DFS stands for (Direct Furnishing Supplies).

SAM STEWART



It's all a bit acid, Sam Stewart's work: an armchair resembling a loaf of bread, a light fixture that – if you squint a bit – looks like a flamingo, and a coffee table that could become a mint-choc-chip Vienetta, depending on how strong the tab is.

Living in NYC, 32-year-old Stewart studied liberal arts with an emphasis on philosophy and maths. Perhaps this had something to do with him having a hard time calling himself a furniture designer per se. But if you can sit on it, and you built it, you're definitely a furniture designer, Sam!

With that in mind, he's not much of a fan of describing his work.

"The longer I do this, the less I like that question," he responds. Eeek. "I don't have kids but I imagine it's like trying to explain idiosyncrasies, imperfections, the good and bad, to a child."

Stewart reckons design isn't just some entity that has a campaign or specific direction. "It's just not that organised," he says. Rather, he's concerned with aesthetics and the phenomenological aspects of design. Hmm.

"The notion of 'comfort' is just as multi-faceted and hyper-specific as the concept of 'design'," he says. That tab was stronger than anticipated.

For Sam, the best thing to do on a sofa is feel comfortable. Currently on his bedside table is a wallet, keys, pencils, jewellery and "various other bric-a-brac", while DFS apparently means "dream fantasy station". Wrong!