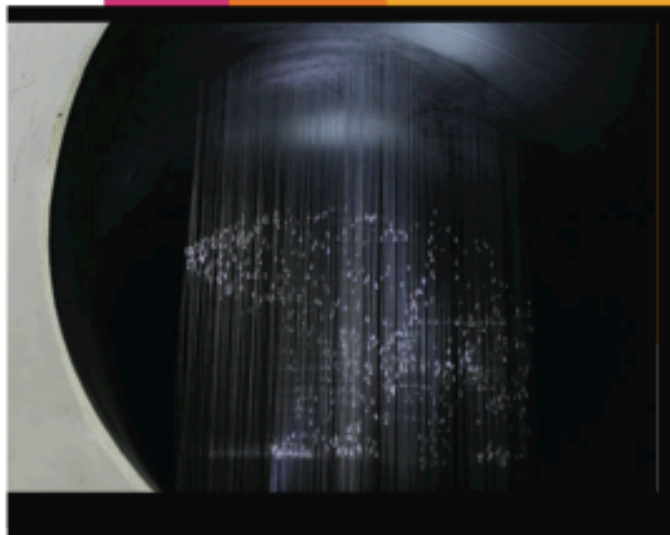


2

Dancing polar bears by Toronto's Deborah Moss and Edward Lam at IDS's experimental Offsite/Onsite exhibit on the main floor. For sheer size, the 12-foot-high Styrofoam critters were hard to overlook. On closer inspection, we were intrigued by the way the twinned pieces had been wrought, with rough kerfing and hot-wire marks at the bottom transitioning to the smoothed-out, deco-like planes of the faces. "We wanted to show the process that we're in love with," Moss explained. On even closer inspection, we were enchanted to see within the belly of one beast Lam's exquisite 3-D rendering of another polar bear made simply from underlit crystal beads strung on clear filaments. Why polar bears? "They're natural and national," Moss told us, "physically large creatures that loom large in our minds and myths. We thought, 'Why not explore that?'" [www.mossandlam.com](http://www.mossandlam.com)



1



10

The anniversary year for Studio North, a juried selection of some of this country's best emerging talent and, as usual, an IDS highlight.



2

## 6 Studio North standouts

### 1—HiFi

Sight and sound combine in Modern Revision's HiFi, a quirky ode to the past "when stereos looked cool," according to designer Jody Racicot of Canoe Cove, P.E.I. Loaded with the latest wireless technology for high-performance sound, capable of streaming music from any smartphone, tablet or nano, HiFi offers up-to-date functionality with a huge dollop of postmodern style. The reclaimed cherry wood piece – over three feet high and nearly as wide – is built like a bug, with strikingly curvaceous spider legs and speaker eyes. "I kept hearing Wall-E," Racicot says of its IDS admirers, "and they were saying it with affection. One of the things I try to lean towards is a certain warmth, a positive reaction from viewers." A cute creature/human communion near impossible to achieve with an ordinary iPod. [modernrevision.com](http://modernrevision.com)

### 2—Cross III

Studio North's one-offs and prototypes remind us that design is fundamentally a sensual experience. Take, for instance, the tactile Cross III table by Toronto's Brothers Dressler. "The first thing people would do is come over and run their hand along it," says Lars Dressler. Made from two slabs of a local tree felled due to Dutch elm disease, the reclaimed wood possesses "beautiful flares and some really interesting patterns going on." Surface interest is heightened by three wooden butterfly staples inserted at stress points for purely practical reasons, yet which somehow end up adding to the aesthetic, as does the reverse live edge running down the table's centre, its roughness the result of larval boring under the tree bark. Angled legs of elm and metal form kinetic cross-trussed supports below. [brothersdressler.com](http://brothersdressler.com)

### 3—Natural Slate Chalkboard

Kino Guérin of Kingsbury, Que., creates amazingly curlicue tables and convoluted benches, including the twisted tour de force Why Knot table that received a lot of press attention during the show. What we really loved, however, was another item just as whimsical in its own way: a chalkboard made from a chunk of broken slate attached to a sheet of cherry-veneered, homemade birch plywood, a graceful curved lip at its bottom for holding chalk and erasers. A simple, and simply elegant, functional object that doubles as a paleolithic work of art. "While I was designing new products, workers were repairing the slate tiles on the roof of my house," Guérin says. "Searching for inspiration, I looked out the window and saw material falling from the sky, nice century-old slates. The idea came immediately to recycle this noble material



CANADIAN

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