



On The Fringe

A part of the Melbourne Fringe Festival for the past 25 years, Fringe Furniture chose 2010 to celebrate our outer metropolitan and regional areas, and a fast disappearing landscape as the urban sprawl continues its outward creep.

"In 2006, for the first time, over half of the world's population lived in cities. Many have claimed that cities are our future, yet these urban centres drain 75 per cent of the world's resources while producing only 2 per cent."

With this year's theme, "The City has a Face, the Country has a Soul", artists were invited to consider the role of our country and regional areas. How could contemporary design create new ways of thinking about the meeting of these two different environments?

Kate Stokes is a new Australian designer in the process of developing a range of locally produced furniture. Her Coco Shade won Best Lighting Design at the Festival: the pendant lights blend hand-turned timber (soul), with machine-spun aluminum components (reflecting the precise, designed nature of a cityscape). These lights perfectly represented the theme of the exhibition, as did Joanna Nataparawira's installation. Her stack of drawers documents a journey she took with Melbourne University to Woomera in the South Australian desert. The use of weathered timber and piled boxes was inspired by a pile of rocket boxes she saw in a junk yard. As each drawer is opened it plays a sound recorded at a different place on the trip. Along with the sounds are objects found at that particular place.

The Best Sustainable Design award was won by Stelian Tchapkanski for an elegant chair made from recycled timber, recycled foam and cloth.

The exhibition was held at "The Substation" in Newport, on the outskirts of Melbourne. The newly restored and converted Substation, which used to convert electricity for the railways, was a perfect place for visitors to have a think about how our idea of the country can exist within an urban metropolis.

www.thesubstation.org.au

