

► Design Stars Showcase in Singapore

'Design Stars' this year featured a collection of pieces by twenty rising Asian and international designers including some from France, Lebanon, Mexico, Russia, UK and USA during the International Furniture Fair Singapore (IFFS) 2016. Also displayed at the show were the finalists of the regular Furniture Design Award (FDA), organized by the Singapore Furniture Industries Council (SFIC) and co-sponsored by AHEC.

As IFFS evolves and matures, it stays true to its calling to meld 'design' with the furniture business. "In all these years, design has been and remains the focus of the event's plans and execution, providing direction and injecting life to the show each year. Located right in the middle of the show is the Design Hall (Hall 4), where a creative buzz is keenly felt," says IFFS. So for this article we picked out a few of our own stars from both exhibits who featured American hardwoods in their personal designs.



Luis Luna hails from Mexico and started his NAMUH studio with the aim to re-interpret familiar products through modern forms and contrasting material that will stand the test of time. His style is simple, functional and filled with character.



Michelle Nathania from Indonesia had been spotted by AHEC in 2015 at the IFFINA show in Jakarta with her excellent American Ash credenza; so it was no surprise to see her selected for IFFS. She set up 'Pureline Living' studio in 2013 specialising in interiors and furniture solutions with contemporary designs, clean lines and simple details, "with the highest quality craftsmanship and finest materials." www.purelineliving.com



Tarek Elkassouf has divided his time mainly between the Lebanon and Sydney, specializing in Architecture, urban planning and furniture design since 2005. He also has experience in designing for cities and projects across the Middle East and North Africa. www.tarekelkassouf.com



Hsin-Chun holding her 'Bent Bench' in American Red Oak.

Hsin-Chun and Ye Liu design in New York at hwd studio which they co-founded in 2013, believing that good design lies at the intersection of functionality and sensibility.



Grace Cheung's Oak stool to share

Grace Cheung from Hong Kong was among the FDA Finalists with her 'Stool for Us' – a piece of furniture about sharing and connections between two individuals, asking the question "Are we willing to offer half of the seat to someone else?" graccccc@gmail.com



John Green, UK with his 'Otis' American Oak stool

John Green in the UK is an award-winning designer of furniture and lifestyle products for manufacturers. He also works on his own brand and as a freelance designer collaborating with other designers and manufacturers. www.johngreendesigns.co.uk



These were just a few of the inspiring young designers who are emerging in the Asian markets and undoubtedly hold the future of using fine materials at the high-end of the furniture business – in these cases American hardwood species.