

# The New Danish Mood

There's no doubt the Danes can teach us a thing or two about design innovation and craftsmanship. After blossoming in the 20th century, the creative community of this Nordic country continues to display innovation. *Octavia Montfort* finds out how a recent trip to Denmark has inspired Chameleon Designs to take inspiration from the enlightened and innovative Danish approach to design



Chameleon Designs  
Danish design by  
Bo Concept

**N**ordic and Danish design may conjure up images of white-on-white palette and blonde timber textures, but bright optimistic colours have been used in many contemporary classics. Look for vibrant updates from Verner Panton, Hans Wenger, Arne Jacobson, Bang and Olufsen, and Vipp. Bo Concept is probably one of the most recognisable Danish furniture suppliers on the high street, but also from new designers such as Eva Solo for kitchen and bathroom accessories, and Day Birger et Mikkelsen for takes on pretty exoticism with cushions.

Honest craftsmanship and natural materials have long been part of Denmark's design heritage, but designers are upping the ante by stripping things back to basics and exposing construction elements. Think TAF Architects' pine wood lamp for Muuto with visible wing nuts, the cast aluminium and solid soap-treated wood tube chair by Hay, or the Ash and Oak hooks by PP Mobler, and wood and ceramic designs by Trip Trapp. Mia Hamborg's Shuffle table was inspired by turned wood and has components that slot onto a central pole support, allowing owners to create various configurations. Vola and Bodum have new designs that epitomise their trademark elegant functionality. Montana, known for its flexible storage systems, channels the functional simplicity so inherent in Danish design in a sleek new TV/hi-fi unit which has built-in speakers – sure to be a modern classic.

Dinesen keeps things beautifully simple, offering oak floorboards in 7m lengths and 52.5cm widths, for those with large spaces hankering after that pure Scandi look.

Organic Lines continue to influence Scandi designers, but the contemporary take on nature is very much curved, oversized and stylised. Witness the sculptural, pebble-like forms of Eva Solo's smiley glass bowls and Verner Panton's "flower pot" table and floor lights. Embracing the outdoors, like a true Dane, the new orb-shaped porcelain oil lamp by Menu will burn steadily even in windy conditions – perfect for the average alfresco evening in the UK.

Danish companies are raiding their design heritage to transform classic pieces using cutting-edge techniques and materials. Cane-Line recreates the sense of wicker furniture in durable, man-made fibres. In keeping with the "cosy at home" translation of the Danish buzz word *hygge*, Morso's 7600 series wood-burning stoves by Monica Ritterband have an enlarged viewing window, giving the look of a roaring hearth, but in an eco-friendly form. This is one of the elements running through all Danish design, and one that Chameleon Design is becoming increasingly aware of when doing work on their properties is the manufacture and design of products with eco-friendly credentials. ■

For more information, call 020 8473 1363 or visit [www.chameleondesignsinteriors.co.uk](http://www.chameleondesignsinteriors.co.uk)