



Ron Arad
talks to Matthew Collings

1

Difference between art
and design 9
Yes to minimal 10
Different minimal 16
Documenta punch-up 16

2

Art, rock, privilege 23
Architects who don't build 25
Stuff from the 70s 29
Short stint in Hampstead 35

3

Rover chair, Covent Garden 39
DIY, scaffolding, surviving 43
Public's unexpected lust
for design 46
Parties 49
Publicity, VAT, the Home Office 50
More stuff in boom climate 51

4

Readymades peaking
and waning 57
Shopping 59
Being a ruinist 60
Not macho 65

5

Doors strangely closed 71
Bricks, Neo-Geo, lights going on
and off 72
Being serious 73

6

Interesting views on chairs 81
Crude to refined 86
More angles on chairs 87
Welding, polishing
and the decorative 88
More decorative 107

7

Chairs get industrial treatment 111
Playful 119
Early chairs 125
Vases, sculptures, computers 131

8

What makes architects tick? 165
Tel Aviv Opera House,
Big Blue and Belgo 172

9

The Qatar floor project 187
Yamamoto 196
Car park building 202
Aesthetics, ideas,
things changing 204
Battersea Power Station 208
New stuff for Qatar 218
What's best? 218

10

Why curve? 223

11

Bibliography 238
Timelines 239
Credits 243
Index 244



Index

Figures in *italics> indicate captions.*

- 3-Skin Joint, chair 229
 38 Tables 224–5, 225, 227
 90° In *The Shade*, table 41
 Abstract Expressionism 87
 Acconci, Vito 167
 Acme Gallery, Covent Garden, London 39, 40
 Adidas 115
Aerial Light 58, 59, 59, 60
After Spring, chair 222–3
 Alchimia 17
 Alessi 94, 146, 152, 152, 153, 154
 Amiga family 178
Amiga House, London 172, 173, 178, 178, 179, 195, 196
 André, Carl 72
 Antonioni, Michelangelo 25
 Arad, Grisha 24
Hagar & Ishmail 24
 Archigram 27, 28, 33, 167
 Architectural Association, London (AA) 24–9, 31, 33, 34, 35, 43, 47, 51, 67, 173
 Ardi (magazine) 23
 Arp, Jean 88
Art of the Sixties (book) 23
 Artforum (magazine) 23, 24, 25
 Artschwager, Richard 9–10, 73, 75
Table with Pink Tablecloth 9
 Aulenti, Gae 67
 AYOR (At Your Own Risk), chair 157, 160–1
- Baby BOOPS*, bowls 95
Bad Tempered Chair 14–15
 Ballard, J.G., *Concrete Island* 33, 235
 Balmond, Cecil 216
 Bang & Olufsen 58
 Barcelona 61
 Battersea Power Station, London 208–18
 Battram, Lois 59
 Baumgarten, Lothar 76
 Belgium 131
Belgo, restaurant, London 179
Belgo Centraal, restaurant, London 179
Belgo Noord, restaurant, London 172, 179
 Bertoni, Flaminio, *Citroën DS* 204–5, 204
 Beuys, Joseph 17
Beware of the Dog, daybed 122–3
 Bickerton, Ashley 19
Big Blue, London 172, 176–7
Big Brother (TV programme) 219
Big Easy 2 for 2, chair 92–3
Big Easy, chair 9, 82, 88, 98, 101, 111, 112, 114, 119, 158
 Bilbao 223
- Black Mountain College, North Carolina 23
 Blair, Tony 178, 216, 219
 Blow Up (film) 24, 25, 25
 Bo Bardi, Linda 67
 Body Art 167
Bookworm, shelving 137, 144, 144–5, 146, 219
BOOP coffee table 230–1
 BOOPS (Blown Out Of Proportion) collection 95, 96–7, 230–1
 Boulevard Raspail, Paris 73
Bouncing Vases 136–7
Box in Four Movements, chair 104–6
 Brisley, Stuart 40
 Brody, Neville 47
 Buhsnami Sculpture Garden, Burton, Texas 10
 Burton, Scott 9, 10
Rock Chair 10
 Burton, Texas 10
 Business Design Centre, Islington, London 211
- Cage, John 23, 25
 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London 172, 178
 Canary Wharf Riverside, London 165, 167, 168
 Cappellini 117, 118
Carbon Fibre Big Easy, chair 100
Carbon Little Heavy, chair 102
Cartier Tables 70, 73, 74, 75
 Cassina 16
 Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris 33, 45, 61, 62, 63, 64, 64, 65, 75
 Centre Point, London 178
 Centre Santa Monica, Barcelona 13, 94, 113, 150
 César (César Baldaccini) 63
 Chadwick, Lynn 25
Chair on a Pedestal 114
 Chalk Farm, London 41, 94, 98, 172, 172, 175, 179
 Chaplin, Charlie 101, 103
 Chicago 101, 202
Chiringuito Cocktail Range 154–5
Chiringuito Cocktail Shaker 152–3, 153
Chiringuito Ice Bucket 152
Chair By Its Cover 66
 Christie's 49, 58
 Citroën 204
 City of Tel Aviv 173
 Coates, Nigel 28, 47, 49
 Cologne 23
Competition to design a contemporary art museum in Aachen, Germany 31
 Conceptual Art 87
 Conceptual Minimal art 19
Concrete Stereo 57, 59, 61
 Cone, chair and table 53
 Coney Island, New York 28
 Conran, Sir Terence 213
 Cook, Peter 27, 28, 29, 33, 65
Plug-in City 29
- Cor-Ten steel house, Hampstead, London 178
 Cosmit, Milan 205
 Courtney Avenue, London 179
 Covent Garden, London 39, 40, 42, 46, 47, 50, 52, 53, 65, 94, 179
 Creed, Martin 72
- D-Sofa* 90–1
Darling (film) 24
 Davenport, Ian 86
 de Meuron, Pierre 228
 Design Council, London 53, 216
Design for a prison in Soho, London 31
Design for a Traffic Island 33, 34
 Destructionism 61, 219
 Dixon, Tom 52, 115
 Documenta 16–17, 19
 Documenta 8 (Kassel, 1986) 17
 Doha, Qatar 187, 188, 190, 193, 195, 218
 Domus (magazine) 146
Domus Totem, public sculpture, Milan 146
Drawing of a false-perspective stadium for a site in Soho, London 33
 Dryden Street, London 40
 Duchamp, Marcel 35, 41, 71–2
Trois Standard Stoppages 227
 Dylan, Bob 23, 25
- Eames, Charles 11
 Earls Court stadium, London 27
 Edison, Thomas 124, 125
 English Heritage 173, 178
 Eno, Brian 9
Evergreen!, public sculpture, Tokyo 170–1
- The Face (magazine) 47, 50, 53
 Fisher, Mark 27, 178
The Wall 80–10 27
 Fondation Cartier, Paris 71, 73, 73, 75, 76, 77
 Formalism 9
 Foster, Norman 196
Foyer elements in the Tel Aviv Performing Arts Centre 173
FPE Chair (Fantastic Plastic Elastic) 143
 France 61
 Friends of the Earth 219
Full House, chairs 17, 17
- Gallery Mourmans, The 81, 82, 84, 98, 100, 103, 124, 130, 131, 133, 135, 136, 156, 158, 160, 230
 Gascoigne (scaffolding inventor) 40
 Gaultier, Jean Paul 43, 60, 61
 Gavron, Nicky 178
Ge-Off Sphere, light 130
 Gehry, Frank 64, 173, 205, 208, 223, 228, 234
 Gherkin, the (Foster's Swiss Re Tower), London 219

- Gilbert and George 234
 Gillick, Liam 19, 121
Installation for the Turner Prize 19
 GLC (Greater London Council) 39
 Golberg, Bertrand, *Marina City* 202, 202
 Goldberg, Rosalee 25–6
 Goldfinger, Erno 178
 Gorky, Arshile 234
 Graham, Dan 19
 Gray, Eileen 67
 Greer, Germaine 67
 Guadalajara, Mexico 202
 Guggenheim Museum, Bilbao 228
- Habitat 115, 119
 Hadid, Zaha 28, 29, 67
 Halley, Peter 19
Sylvester 19
 Hamilton, Richard, *Just What Is It That Makes Today's Homes ...* 28
 Hampstead, London 35, 46, 173, 178, 178
 Hampton Court Palace, East Molesey, Surrey 197
 Hansen, Fritz 11
Heads for '84', exhibition (1983) 47, 49
 Heart and Industry 113
 Hemmings, David 25
 Herzog, Jacques 228
 Hibino, Katsuhiko 52
 Highpoint, Hampstead, London 178
 Hightec, Hampstead, London 178
 Hockney, David 188
 Holborn, London 94
 Hollein, Hans 61
 Holzer, Jenny 194
 Home Office, London 47
 Hopkins, Michael 178
Hot Ingo, light 138–9
Hot Tango, light 138–9
Hotel complex in the roofspace of Battersea Power Station, London 209, 210, 212, 216
 Hotel Puerto America, Madrid 207
Hotel Grand Salone, Milan 205, 206
- Impressionism 83
Interior elements for the Millennium House, Qatar 186, 187, 188–9, 190–1, 192–3, 194, 195
Interior of Bazaar/John Paul Gaultier for Men 61
 IPCO (Inverted Pinhole Camera Obscura), light 124, 125
 Islington, London 211
 Isozaki, Arata 227
 Italy 90, 98
 Jackson's Lane Community Centre, Highgate, London 178
 Jacobsen, Arne 11
Egg Chair 11
Swan Chair 11
- Japan 52
 Jarman, Derek 47
 Jencks, Charles 29
 Jerusalem 25
 Joseph 59
 Judd, Donald 10–11
Chair 10
- Kartell 143, 144, 144
 Kassel 17
 Kentish Town, London 111
 Kenwood, London 178, 179
 Kenwood House, London 173, 195, 217–18
 Kippenberger, Martin 17
 Kokoschka, Oskar 24
 Koolhaas, Rem 28–9
Delirious New York 28
 Koons, Jeff 19, 72
Rabbit 72
 Kruger, Barbara 194
- Landy, Michael 63
 Lane, Danny 49, 52
Large Bookworm, flexible shelving 144
 Le Corbusier 28
Ronchamp 205
 Leccia, Ange 17
 Libeskind, Daniel 178, 234
 Lichtenstein, Roy 9, 10
Little Albert, chair 115, 116
Little Heavy, chair 101, 103, 158
 Livingstone, Ken 40
 London 19, 24, 25, 51, 61, 165, 167, 168, 172, 175, 178, 196, 204, 209, 210, 212, 216
 London Art Fair 211
 London Fashion Week 211
 London Film Festival 211
 London Transport 39
Looploom, daybed 232–3
Looploop, chair 18
 Los Angeles 59
 'Lovely Rita' (Lennon & McCartney) 25
 Lubetkin, Berthold 178
 Lucas, Sarah 76
 Ludwig Museum, Cologne 23
- McLennon, Peter 40
 Mad Max (film) 60
 Madrid 206
 Magis 127, 128, 150, 151
 The Manipulator (magazine) 52
 Marconi Gallery, Milan 121, 125
 Marino, Uncle 121, 121
 Mariscal (Spanish artist) 61, 63
 Maserati 180, 182
Maserati showroom, Modena 180–1, 182–3
 Matrix, The (film) 195
- Maurer, Ingo 136
 Maxfield Blue, Melrose Avenue, Los Angeles 59
 Melrose Avenue, Los Angeles 59
 Memphis 17, 75
 Mendini, Alessandro 17, 61
 Mercedes 17
 Mercer, David 24, 25
Metro, shelving 45, 47
 Mexico 202
 Mexico City 206
 Milan 64, 111, 119, 121, 124, 146, 146, 151, 205
 Milan Furniture Fair 225
 Millennium Dome, Greenwich, London 126, 209, 213
Millennium House, Qatar 187–96
 Minimalism 10, 11, 16, 223, 228, 234, 235
 Miyake, Issey 59–60
 Modena, Italy 180, 182
 Modern Movement 57, 202, 223
 Monroe, Marilyn 227
 Morgan: A Suitable Case for Treatment (film) 24, 25
 Mori 170
 Moroso 111–14, 111, 112, 113, 114, 116, 117, 121, 121
 Spring Collection 114, 156
 Moroso, Patrizia 112, 121
 Morris, Robert 24
 Morrison, Jasper 11
 Moser, Willy 52
 Mucha, Reinhard 17
- Nato (Narrative Architecture Today) 28
 Neal Street, Covent Garden, London 49, 52
 Nelson, George 11
 Neo-Expressionism 17, 19
 Neo-Geo 19, 72
 Neo-Russian Constructivism 88
New Descending Staircase, A 52
 New Labour 208–9
New Orleans, armchairs 9, 81, 82–3, 83, 84–5, 101, 148
 New York 19, 33, 59
 Nike 115
Nino Rota, chair 117, 118
 Nippon Antenna 58
 Northington Street, Holborn, London 94
Not Made By Hand, bowl 134–5
 Nouvel, Jean 73
 'Les Nouvelles Tendences' exhibition (Pompidou Centre, 1986) 61, 62
- Oldenburg, Claes 23, 33, 46
 Olympus Cameras 180
 One Off 17, 19, 40, 41, 45, 46, 47, 49, 50, 53, 57, 59, 60, 67, 88, 90, 92, 98, 100, 144, 152, 156, 160, 223
 One Off Ltd 232

- One Off's Studio/showroom in Shelton Street, Covent Garden, London 42*
One Off's Studio/workshop in Shorts Gardens, Covent Garden, London 38
 Oribe awards 227

 Paolozzi, Eduardo 28, 47
Paperwork Collection 152, 158–9
Paperwork Collection Oh Void Daybed 158–9
 Paris 61, 62, 63, 64, 71, 73, 76, 119
 Parkview Development 208, 209, 210, 212, 216
 Pawson, John 11
 Perez-Arad, Esther 24
 Untitled 24
Perfect Vases 132–3
 Performance Art 25, 167
 Piano, Renzo 33
Pic Chairs 82, 148–9
 Picasso, Pablo 51
 Pink Floyd: The Wall tour 27, 27
Plastic Little Albert, chair 110, 115, 117
Platform C, cantilevered platform bed and wardrobe 46
 Pollock, Jackson 81, 83
 Pond Street, Hampstead, London 178
 Pop Art 9, 23
 postmodernism 223, 234
 Prouvé, Jean 11
 Standard Chair 11

 Qatar 187, 188, 190, 193, 195, 218
 Quinn, Marc 103

 Rauschenberg, Robert 23
 Recycling 219
 Redgrave, Vanessa 25
 Reisz, Karel 25
 Rembrandt van Rijn 188
 Reynolds, Rachel 41, 65, 94, 94
 RIBA (Royal Institute of British Architects) 28, 29
 Richter, Gerhard 72
 Rietveld, Gerrit Thomas 10
 Red and Blue Chair 16, 16
 Riley, Lord 53
Rocking Chair, The 38, 57, 58
 Rogers, Richard 33, 178
Rolling Volume, chair 98–9
 Ron Arad Associates 122, 146, 148, 225
 Ron Arad Studio, Italy 75, 98, 107, 224, 230
Ron Arad Studios 172, 175
 Roppongi Hills, Tokyo 170, 196
 Round House, Camden, London 41
Round Railed Bed 50
Rover Chair 39, 40–43, 40, 47, 49, 59, 88, 219
 Royal College of Art, London 25, 67
 Ruinism 61, 219

 Saatchi Gallery, London (later County Hall) 71, 75
 Salone del Mobile furniture fair, Milan (2002) 205
 Saud al Thani, Sheikh of Qatar 187–9, 187, 188, 190, 193, 194–6, 195, 227
 Schneckenger, Manfred 16
 Scott, Gilbert 211
 Serra, Richard 188, 218, 228
 Serralunga 140
 Shaun (welder) 94
 Shelton Street, Covent Garden, London 42
Shelving 45
 Shorts Gardens, Covent Garden, London 39, 52
Showroom in Neal Street, Covent Garden 49
 Silvestrin, Claudio 11, 45
Sit, chair 156
 Slade School of Fine Art, London 25
 Slingsbys (industrial and commercial equipment) 45
 Sloane Street, London 59
 Smith, Paul 65
 Smithson, Robert 24
Soft Big Easy, chair 112
Soft Heart 114, 114
 Soho, London 31, 33
 S.O.S. (Sort of Shelving) 150–151
 Sotheby's 58
 Sottsass, Ettore 65, 75, 188
 South Kensington, London 178, 179
 South Molton Street, London 61
 'Spiral' (Victoria & Albert Museum extension) 178, 178
Stacking Chair 126
 Stanwix, Matt 41
 Starck, Philippe 16, 61, 63
 Steinbach, Haim 19, 72
Sticks and Stones, touring exhibition 62–3, 64
Swan Chair 127, 128

 'Taking Liberties' exhibition (Centre Santa Monica, Barcelona, 2003) 13, 94, 113, 150
 Tango, Yuki 136
 Tate Britain, London 19
 Tate Gallery, London 83
 Tate Modern, London 211, 213, 228
 Tel Aviv 23, 24, 25
 Tel Aviv Opera House 172, 173, 223, 224
 Tel Aviv Performing Arts Centre 173
 Thorman, Caroline 35, 44, 53, 53
Tilt, pedestal 114
 Time Out (magazine) 52
 Times, The (newspaper) 219
Tinker Chair 94, 124, 125
 Tokyo 125, 170, 196, 200
Tom Vac, chair 128, 146, 147, 148
 Tommy (owner of Maxfield Blue) 59–60
Topot, outdoor plant pot 140–1
 Toyo Ito Pavilion 216

 Transformer Mattresses 61
 Tschumi, Bernard 25, 26, 27, 28, 33
 The Manhattan transcripts 26
 Tsurumaru, Yoku 130
 Turner Prize 19, 67, 72
 Two Tree Island, near Southend, Essex 33
Two vases from BOOPS series 96–7

Vallarta Tower, Mexico 203
Vases 131
 Venice 119
 Victoria, London 26
 Victoria & Albert Collection 116
 Victoria & Albert Museum, London 178
Victoria & Albert Sofa 113
 Vienna 86
 Vitra 11, 16, 64, 65, 137, 146
 Vitra Design Museum, Weil am Rhein 64
 Vuitton, Louis 64

 Waddington, David 53
 'Walking City' concept 28
 Wallraf-Richartz Museum and the Ludwig Foundation, Cologne 23
 Warhol, Andy 49
 Warner, David 24, 25
 Weil am Rhein 64
Well Tempered Chair 11, 13, 16, 158
 West, Franz 86, 87
 Docustühle (Docu chairs) 86
 West Ferry Circus, London 164, 166, 168
 Wilde, Oscar 9
 Wilson, Peter 28
Windwand, London 166, 168–9
 Winter, John 178
 Women's Art 67
 Woodrow, Bill 72

 Yamamoto, Yohji 196, 200
 Y's Store, Tokyo 196–7, 196–7, 198–9, 200–1