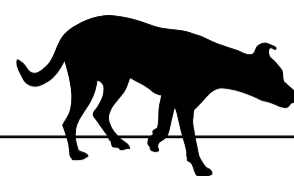
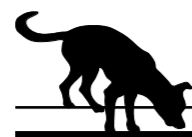


LAZERIAN



REVIEW 2009





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Lazerian is a creative practice that began in 2006, set up by Liam Hopkins, a Manchester born designer-maker.

Based in an ex-hat factory in Manchester, the practice is focused on the creation of functional objects through playful investigation of materials and processes.



Liam Hopkins

Liam Hopkins was born in Manchester, England. At an early age, curiosity led him to experiment with everyday objects, and through reverse-engineering he began to learn about the nature of their construction and material use. In 2001, Liam enrolled on Three Dimensional Design at Tameside Technical College in Ashton-Under Lyne, where he explored the constructive potential of many different materials.

He went on to study a BA(Hons) in Three Dimensional Design at Manchester Metropolitan University, discovering a niche in the design and making of furniture. The colours and structures of nature inspire his work, guiding the aesthetic and material choices.

In 2006 Liam set up studio Lazerian in Manchester, England, where he develops and creates his own experimental designs, collaborating with other designers to produce work under the Lazerian brand, as well as working on unique commissions for clients worldwide.



Richard Sweeney

Richard Sweeney was born in Huddersfield, England in 1984. He discovered a natural talent for sculpture at Batley School of Art and Design in 2002, where he began experimenting with sheet materials including paper, cardboard and laminated wood. This led him to the study of Three Dimensional Design at the Manchester Metropolitan University, where he concentrated on the hands-on manipulation of paper to create design models and unique sculptures.

Richard's practice combines the disciplines of design, photography, craft and sculpture, resulting in a varied output of work including graphic design and public sculpture commissions. Combining hand-craft with computer aided design and CNC manufacturing techniques, Richard seeks to maintain an experimental, hand-on approach, utilising the unique properties of often mundane materials to discover unique sculptural forms.



Jason Chart Davies

Jason explores three dimensional jewellery forms by working hands-on with flexible sheet materials such as paper and plastic. He has always gained satisfaction from the construction of unique sculptural structures, cutting and bending his chosen medium by hand into three-dimensional forms, which have an organic quality to their appearance. Winner of the Gold award in Fashion Jewellery in the Goldsmiths Craftsmanship Awards 2008, he has also exhibited in Liverpool, Manchester and Norway.

Jason's creations are borne of hands-on investigation into material, combined with the use of repeated components and organically inspired geometry. He has applied this approach to create fashion accessories, kinetic sculptures and lighting, and is currently developing designs for furniture at Lazerian Studio.



Rhopalastrum down-lighter by Jason Chart Davies

Paper mascot

Standing at almost one metre tall, the Lazerian mascot (affectionately named Gerald) has been transformed into a paper sculpture.

The design was generated using computer software, which converts virtual three-dimensional models into flat layouts for construction in paper. The component layout (illustrated below) was plotted onto paper, then hand cut and glued to form the final model. The triangulated structure of the paper sculpture gives it great rigidity, allowing Gerald to stand at 99cm tall.

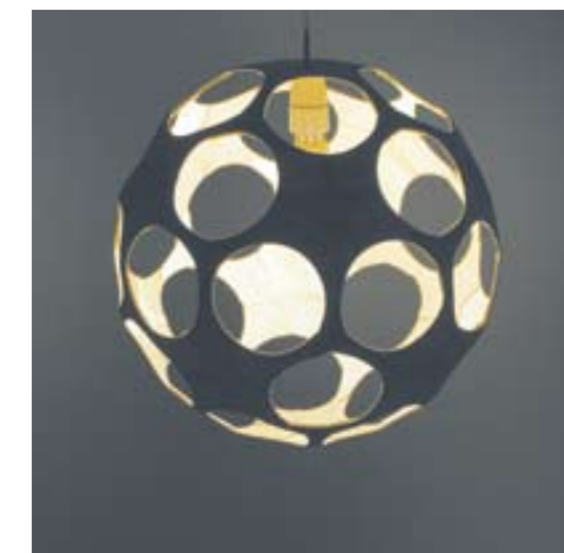


Lighting launched at 100% London

A new lighting collection accompanies jewellery by designer Jason Chart Davies, who joined Lazerian in 2008 to further develop his range of organic, hand-crafted sculptures and functional objects.

Jason patiently hand-crafts jewellery and catwalk accessories using sheet plastics and tiny brass fittings. Seeking to expand on his range of designs, collaboration with Lazerian has allowed him to explore the potential of automated cutting technology, which was realised with a new lighting range, created from sheet plastic, cut using a computer controlled (CNC) router.

The new range of sheet plastic lighting complements a range of plywoods lamps, which were created by Richard Sweeney and Liam Hopkins. The design utilises CNC cut components, which are hand finished and glued to form organically inspired geometric structures.



Clockwise from top: Borealis, Fornax and Indus plywood lampshades.



Mensa table collection

Lazerian's experimentation with plywood over the past two years has culminated in the creation of a new collection of furniture. Starting from a hands-on exploration of plywood, Richard Sweeney and Liam Hopkins created a series of models with various connecting methods, including bolting and self-interlock. With the use of a CNC (computer numerically controlled) router, these models were further advanced to find structural forms capable of supporting weight.

From this process emerged a distinctive collection of furniture, which makes use of both raw and laminated birch plywood. The designs emphasise the importance of material to Lazerian- the basis of a design starts with the material itself, and efforts are made to incorporate the unique features of the material into the design, and to fully integrate methods of hand craft with new manufacturing technologies.

From left to right:
Mensa coffee table. Ø1100x400
Mensa dining table. Ø1100x750mm
Mensa side table. Ø550x500mm



Lazerian mural by Andy Singleton

Artist and illustrator, Andy Singleton has completed a hand-drawn mural spanning a five metre length of wall at Lazerian Studio, Manchester.

Singleton describes himself as "dedicated and a perfectionist" when it comes to creating his intricate illustrations. Inspired by both nature and the man made world, he often merges the two to create complex visions of flowing, mechanical landscapes.

Born 1983 in Nottingham, Singleton was raised in Wakefield, West Yorkshire from the age of three. Currently living in Manchester, he graduated from BA Hons Illustration & Animation at Manchester School of Art in 2006, showing a series of hand-cut paper illustrations at his graduate show, which were later exhibited at Urbis, Manchester. He is currently producing a new set of artworks, which will form a series of T-shirt designs and prints, to be distributed via his upcoming label, Ex Virtus.



Clockwise from top: The hand-drawn wall mural at Lazerian Studio. Detail of mural. Singleton at work with a marker pen.

Bodhi coat stand



Anuak dining table



Thya dining table and benches



Bile rocking chair



Borealis
Fornax
Indus



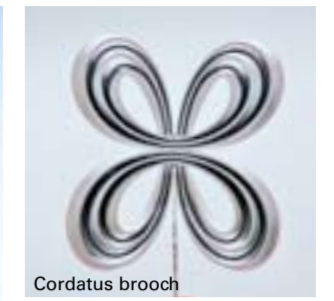
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Hexinastrum bangle



Cordatus brooch



Dayia brooch



Hippopus bangle



Eucharis bangle

Mensa coffee table



Mensa side table



Equuleus



Mensa dining table



Light Modulator



Minerals candle holders



Rhopalastrum collection



Venatici





Light Modulator

The Light Modulator emerged as part of a collaboration between Liam Hopkins and Richard Sweeney. The aim of the project was to explore the properties of thin, birch plywood in the creation of modular forms, the components of which could be cut using a CNC router. The use of hands-on modelling as a means of testing and developing the form was employed from the outset. By manipulating plywood directly, the behavior of the material was used to develop morphology. Factors such as grain direction, flexibility and strength were integral to the resolution of the final construction.

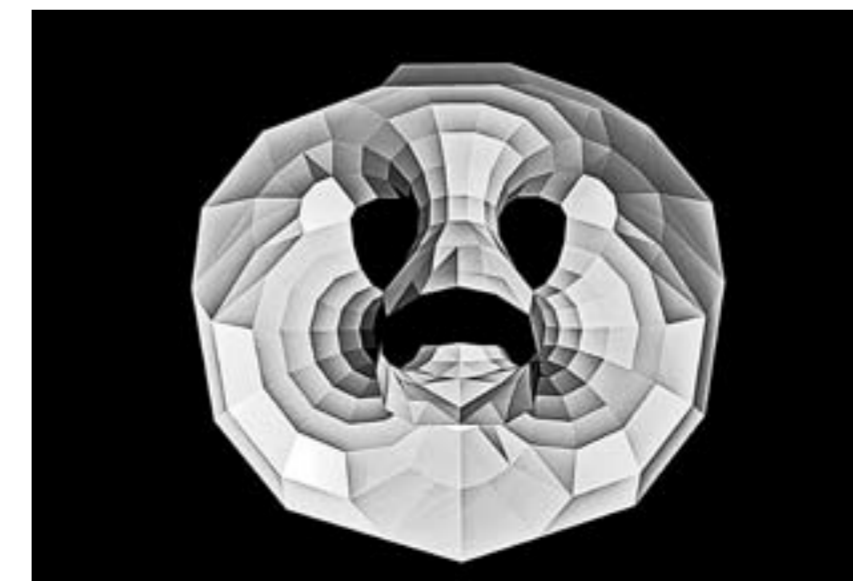
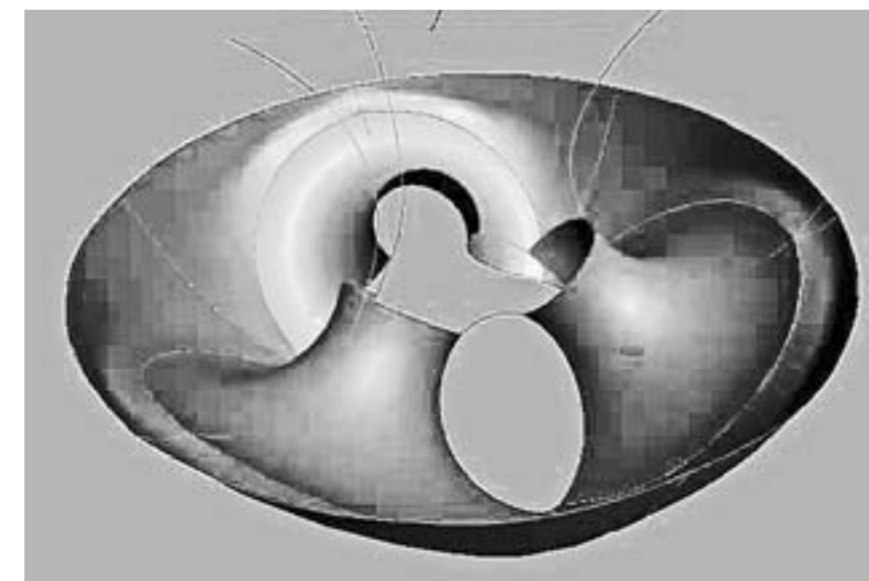
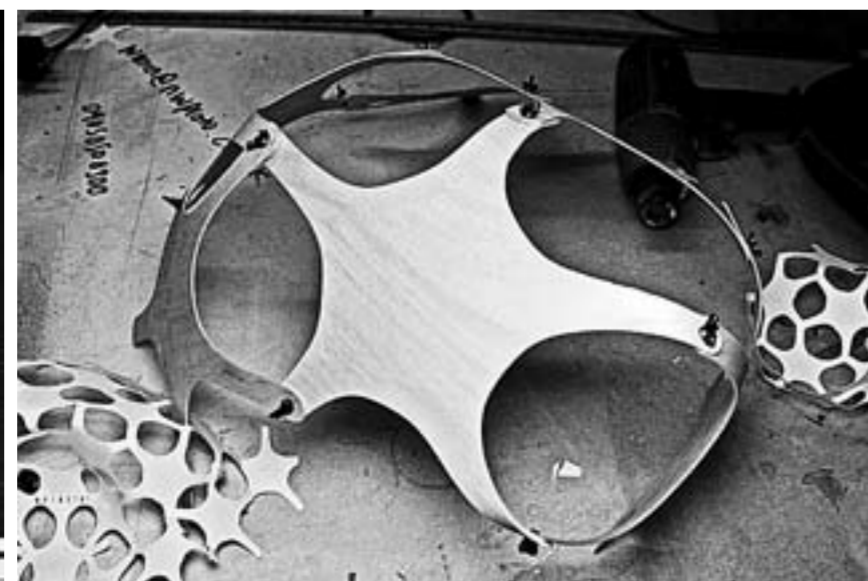
Material properties informed the development of computer models, which were used to create physical, paper maquettes before construction in plywood. By maintaining a material-led approach, the computer can be more effectively utilised in the creation of form, as an awareness of physical constraints has already been established.

From the computer model, a set of organic shapes was derived, each corresponding to a single polygon. The model was developed with a symmetrical form to reduce the number of components to a set of twenty four unique shapes, thus simplifying construction. The pieces were hand assembled using small bolts and wing nuts.

Embracing both hand-craft and machine process allows the exploration of ideas, which utilise the unique aspects of both approaches, unrestricted by adherence to dogmatic principles and realising the creative potential of a holistic approach to design.



Light Modulator. 1400x800mm



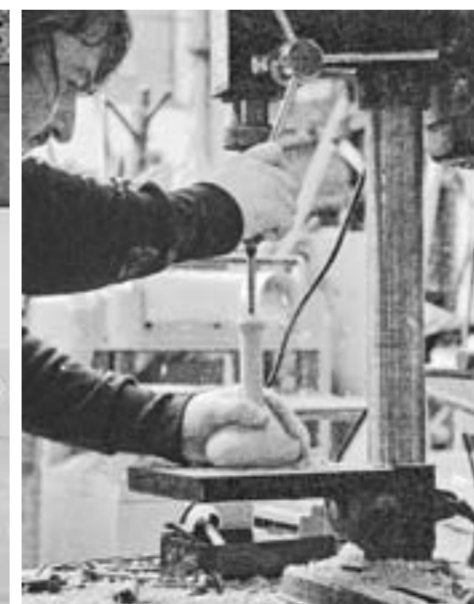


Minerals candle holders

The Minerals collection is a series of solid beech candle holders, inspired by traditional laboratory apparatus.

Each candle holder is turned on a lathe from a piece of laminated beech, which is then hand finished. This is the first design in the Lazerian range to utilise a recently acquired copy lathe. Similar to a traditional lathe, a copy lathe has the added function of being able to "trace" a profile pattern from a jig.

With the expertise of resident wood turner, Ron Yates, the potential of the lathe is being further explored through an on-going process of experimental form-making, the results of which will be applied in future projects.





Equuleus: Sculptural mobile

Equuleus comprises self-interlocking plywood components, which are constructed to create a sculptural, hanging mobile.

A series of paper models were created to explore the potential of the slot-interlock; a method of joining components without the need for fittings or glue. The geometry of the square and the triangle were used, as these shapes can be efficiently tessellated on a planar surface- the resulting modules used to create regular three dimensional forms based upon Platonic geometry, or random free-form constructions. Once refined, the shapes were cut from birch plywood using a computer controlled router.

The concept of growth was an important influence, leading to the development of form, which was inherently incomplete, and with the addition of further modules could continue to expand indefinitely.



The equuleus mobile (top) measuring 1.5 metres. The structure can be added to indefinitely to create large-scale interior installations.

