

# René Siebum

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An amalgam of a remarkable designer and an outstanding craftsman. René Siebum (32) founded his eponymous studio in 2010, the same year he graduated from Design Academy Eindhoven's Man & Well-Being department. Wood-craft is his passion. In his workspace, located at Strijp R in Eindhoven, he creates beautiful projects that merge essence and function. Call him a minimalist; he regards it as a badge of honour. "I don't like frills and unnecessary decoration. The goal is to try to capture the essence in a design. I want to make objects that ensure interaction between a space, the product and the user."

Siebum gets much of his inspiration from Japanese architecture. "I admire the work of Shigeru Ban and Tadao Ando. Last June, I went to Tokyo and it felt like a homecoming. The culture and people... everything that lives, breathes, thinks and moves there fascinates me. Visiting the ancient Japanese warehouses was like walking through my graduation project."

## Intimacy

That graduation project is called *Second Skin*. It's a bookcase with sophisticated technical details that folds out into a space. "The design is related to my personal memories. As a child, my favourite place used to be at my grandmother's kitchen table. And in the pub I always look for the safest, nicest spot. In contemporary architecture, intimacy is relegated far to the background. This

bookcase brings intimacy back to the user. And it should excite the senses."

With partners, he worked on large assignments for Stedelijk Museum, Ollily and Tedx Amsterdam, but at the moment he is trying to promote his work in stores, too. His ergonomic balancing 'yoga-stool', *Lanterns* from wood and Washi paper, his *Basics* furniture series and *Low Dresser* can now only be purchased from the website.

## Ingenious wardrobe

At DDW, Siebum presents a new design: a wardrobe wall, consisting of mahogany hexagon-shaped blocks (with a threaded pipe inside) that can run smoothly. A subtle, ingenious interior product mainly meant for public spaces. For ordinary consumers, some smaller variants are being produced. Siebum: "I started playing and puzzling with geometric shapes and cubes. While experimenting – triangles become hexagons – I found the solution. After that, I worked it out in 3D. Such puzzle solving is very challenging. And rewarding. Eureka's always follow."

Find his presentation at page 57, presentation nr. 56  
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