

# GORDON RUSSELL DESIGN MUSEUM

Newsletter No.5

March 2012

## POLISHED THOUGHTS: FROM CONCEPT TO CRAFT

Exhibiting Excellence: Contemporary British Furniture 10 March -30 June 2012



At a packed private view on the evening of Friday 9 March 2012 Fred Baier, the avant-garde British furniture designer, craftsman and artist-in-residence for the House of Lords, welcomed over 80 cultural experts to the Gordon Russell Design Museum's first ever exhibition.

Among the guests could be found Ghislaine Wood, who is curating the V&A's exhibition of British Design 1948-2012; Victoria McGuinness, who is spearheading the arrival of the Ashmolean in Broadway; Christopher Rodrigues, Head of Visit Britain and Lucy and David Abel Smith of Fresh Air sculpture show fame, who had just returned from Transylvania, as well as David Dewing, Director of the Geffrye Museum; Chris Hyde, Head of Rycotewood College together with the sponsor of the Gordon Russell Award and Chairman of Hands of Wycombe, Peter Head. Refreshments were generously provided by Guy Warner of Budgens and Andrew Riley at Russell's restaurant.

Expertly curated by Hugh Williams, the exhibition features the Gordon Russell/Rycotewood award winning furniture of Tom Pugh (2009), Pete Beckley (2010) and Ben Croft (2011), with their original designs and working drawings. Contemporary glass, ceramics and textile designs from New Brewery Arts, Cirencester complemented the display. Nick Gibbs, Editor of *British Furniture Maker*, motored back from Cornwall to record the occasion.



## Cotswold Tourism Awards 2012

On 7 March Cotswold Tourism announced that the Gordon Russell Design Museum had been selected for their Silver award for the Attraction of the Year. The Trustees were delighted at this acknowledgement of the museum's contribution to Cotswold tourism, and look forward to going for gold in 2013.

## Ashmolean in Broadway

The Gordon Russell Design Museum is looking forward to working collaboratively with the Ashmolean Museum Oxford on a series of joint events, exhibitions and educational activities at Tudor House, Broadway.

Built in 1659/1660 Tudor House is one of the most important buildings in the village. This new museum will feature items from the Ashmolean's collections that reflect the building's 350-year history. Community engagement through exhibitions and events will be the main focus of the new museum, which opens in late 2012.



## Internships

The Museum was delighted to welcome its first intern Lilly Dell, from London Metropolitan University, during the month of January. Lilly helped the Curator with collection management tasks, which she carried out in a professional manner. The Trustees would like to encourage more students to take up this opportunity to work in the museum collections.

## New publication

*Sir Gordon Russell CBE, MC, RDI (1892-1908): A twentieth century design pioneer* by Helen R. Auty, former RSA Director of Design. Recently published by the William Shiple Group for RSA History, this authoritative account of the life and achievements of this celebrated designer provides a valuable source of reference as well as being a good read. Copies will be available from the museum (cover price £7.50)

