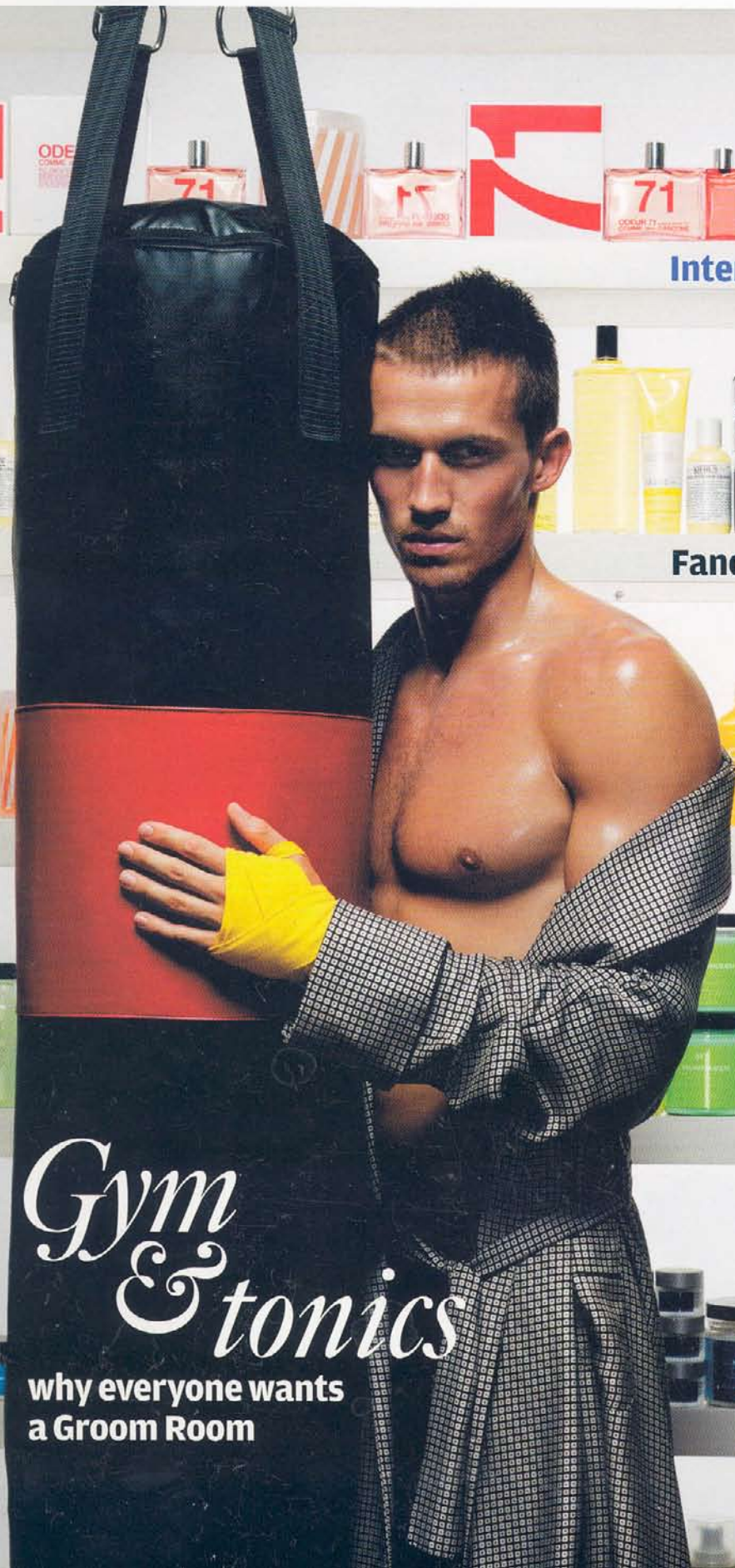


Wallpaper*

OCTOBER 2003

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AT ONE REMOVE

From left to right, Peter Johansen, Felix Voss, Maria Hørmann, Claus Jakobsen and Thomas Bentzen

Clockwise from left, 'M4' chair, sofa from '+372' collection, 'Fyr Lampe' ('Pine Lamp'), 'Uge 3' side table, 'Pine Chair 1.0', 'Linoleum' seating system, coffee table from '+372' collection



A pine romance

With a collection made mostly of conifers, Danish design group, Remove, has got wood in a big way

Teak is a handsome wood that's easy to fall for and mahogany will always be much loved, but pine is something of a harder sell. People just seem to have seen one too many sets of shabby pine drawers to really take to the material. It does have its fans, though, and none more ardent than Remove, a five-person design collective based in Copenhagen.

Thomas Bentzen, Maria Hørmann, Claus Jakobsen, Peter Johansen and Felix Voss all graduated recently from the Danish Design School where they decided to embrace pine for their debut collection, called '+372'. 'The patina is really nice,' says Bentzen in defence of the wood. 'You can actually see that the piece of furniture is made from a real tree in a forest; it has knots and annual rings and seems more natural than teak or Oregon pine.' Bentzen's contribution to Remove's

first collection is the 'Pine Chair 1.0', an angular seat which is at odds with the Danish reputation for organic-inspired shapes. Hørmann has designed a low pine table for the collection and admits that for her it's the smell that attracts her. 'As a cabinet maker, pine is very appealing because it has the true scent of a Norwegian wood,' she says.

Remove opened its showroom in central Copenhagen in May 2002. The core idea was to create a working environment that rested on a few essential values: the group should always base their collections on one defining theme (for example, pine) and each person should be responsible for designing additions to the collection. Members would also be responsible for providing the others with critiques and feedback and occasionally the group would design items together. 'We

CONTACT DETAILS

www.remove.dk

STYLE

'Straightforward and graphic'

INFLUENCES

Minimalist sculptor Donald Judd; correctness, but not perfection

CLIENTS

Mostly friends and relatives, plus employees at the Danish Design Centre

FUTURE PROJECTS

To start working with aluminium, as well as pine; a stand at the Stockholm Furniture Fair in February 2004; and their five-year plan: 'I've always dreamed of doing the interior of a restaurant or hotel in pine,' Voss says. 'Or even better, the Danish parliament,' adds Bentzen

wanted somewhere we could discuss materials and form outside the realm of design academies,' says Johansen. 'Our products should ideally consist of equal parts intellectual reflection and commercial appeal.'

Remove hopes that its designs will wake up the traditional Danish pine industry to more contemporary possibilities. 'There has not been any innovation in this field for many, many years,' says Voss. Jakobsen is confident that the image of 'heavy pine TV and video shelves' will soon be banished forever. 'We wanted to prove that pine could be the core material in some very nice furniture. With our "+372" collection, I think we have succeeded in that.' A little self-congratulatory, perhaps, but in this instance we might have to agree. ★

Writer Filip Lau

Photographer Thomas Ibsen