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Photos by LTD



On the opposite page: "Auga" by "Studio LTD": the winner of the contest [neformate]

On the left: General view of the exposition



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Below: Bench "Karolina" by Renatas Sukys ("Design team")

This year the "Baldai" ("Furniture") exhibition in "Litexpo" looked totally different. New image was created (designer R.Jucaitis) which didn't look for any connections with the previous continuous conservative communication. This year, the exhibition managers, with some consultations of the "Dizaino forumas" association changed the logo, established elite Design Hall, resurrected the Best Furniture Design contest and kept the Design gallery. Though you can't step into the same river twice, Litexpo, being a national company, has the possibility to take over cherishing aesthetics and design again, encouraging others to grow the design culture within the participants. Especially when the interest in the furniture industry doesn't go away, the number of visitors exceeded 30,000 and even 15,000 people bought tickets on Saturday.

Nauris Kalinauskas' system of office furniture "Office forever", made of leaf steel was chosen to be the winner of the Best Furniture Design contest with the architect Rolandas Palekas being the chairperson of the jury. The second place was given to "Standard" company from Estonia for the "Sheff" chair (designer Katrin Soans). The third place was taken by the "Plantis" office furniture system, presented by "ErgoLain projektai" (designer Vytautas Puzeras). Finally, the collection of wooden furniture by Rytis Zaveckas was awarded with a diploma for "Creative mastership".

This year it was a bit lack of space in the Design Gallery again. The traditional con-

test of furniture design [neformate] was held under the "Wood-do" slogan, with some links to "would", "wood" and "voodoo". The organizers, especially the irreplaceable curator Nauris Kalinauskas picked top 25 out of 50 participants. They were exposed in the exhibition. Juozas Brundza ("Studija LTD"), who won last year, took the first place once more, along with the honor to represent Lithuania in the international ICFF exhibition in New York in May 2008. His coatrack "Auga" if functional and decorative at the same time, it becomes one's very own at once. Paulius Savickas' chandelier (2nd place) didn't show any new ideas: it played with the light shading through the wooden shell. It's necessary to find a producer for this winner (just like all the others) that would have a larger market (and

producing capabilities) than ours. Otherwise they'll be doomed to be showpieces, not things due to extremely high prime cost and the final price.

"Pixel" table received the 3rd place as the most national showpiece. It's made of oak and some dark exotic timber beams cut across. Gintautas Acas ("Luksto stiprumas" ("Strength of shell") stand), Vytautas Puzeras ("Korys" ("Comb") sitting item of furniture) and Julius Bucelis ("Pinocchio" system of sitting items of furniture) were awarded with diplomas. Tadas Radzevicius ("Pixel" table) received a special prize by Rytis Zaveckas - "Dizaineriu duona" ("Designers' bread").

