

ZELOUF+BELL furniture makers glasshouse, vicarstown, county laois, ireland
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Studio furniture makers ZELOUF+BELL and their team of master craftsmen have been making museum-quality furniture to commission in their workshop in rural Ireland since 1992. Their award-winning work is in private collections, public offices, embassy residences, churches and museums, at home and abroad.

ZELOUF+BELL'S extraordinary, collectible pieces are grounded in practicality, suggesting a dialogue between art, history and design. "We don't fit in, but for us, that's a strategy." Theirs is an intensely personal new modernism, informed by that which came before.

ZELOUF+BELL are represented in New York by Maison Gerard, in Dublin by Solomon Fine Art. Selected pieces may be seen in the colourful Parisian showrooms of David Hicks France. The National Museum of Ireland acquired three ZELOUF+BELL pieces for the museum's permanent collection.

Solo Exhibitions

1993 'Wood for the Trees', The Furniture Gallery, Dublin
1995 'Grey Area/Functional Art', Guinness Hopstore, Dublin
2007 'Back to Black', Smoketree Building, Twentynine Palms, California
2012 'Retrospect', The Motor House Gallery at Farmleigh, Irish State Guesthouse, Phoenix Park, Dublin
2013 '21st Century Classics', Le Centre Culturel Irlandais, Paris, France

Selected Exhibitions

1992 Crafts Council Christmas Show
1993 The Furniture Gallery
1994 CCOI Interiors, curated by Rachel Lamb
1995 Anya Von Gosseln Gallery, Dublin
1996 Dolmen Gallery, Limerick
1996 Riverrun Gallery, Galway
1996-97 DESIGNyard
2002 National Crafts Fair, Dublin
2003 RDS National Crafts Travelling Exhibition
2003 Philadelphia Museum of Art Craft Show
2003 Create 2003, Fota House, Cork
2005 Collectors Event, CCOI, Kilkenny Arts Festival
2005 Plan Expo, Dublin
2005 Philadelphia Museum of Arts Craft Show, Philadelphia, PA, USA
2005 Create 2005, Fota House, Cork
2005 Collectors Event, Hunt Museum, Limerick
2006 Celebration of Craftsmanship, Cheltenham
2006 Urban Retreat Gallery, Dublin
2007 Celebration of Craftsmanship, Cheltenham
2007 Bespoke, Worshipful Company of Furniture Makers, London
2007 Exquisite, Dublin
2007-08 Bespoke Gallery, Cheltenham
2008 Exquisite, Cork
2008 Interiors, RDS
2008 Celebration of Craftsmanship, Cheltenham
2008 Luxury, K Club, Kildare
2009 Decorex, London

2009 Portfolio, Dublin
2009 Interiors, RDS
2009 Cream of Irish, RDS
2010 Architectural Digest MADE, New York
2010 Philadelphia Invitational Furniture Show
2010 Interiors, RDS
2010 100% Design, London
2011 Architectural Digest MADE, New York
2011 Philadelphia Invitational Furniture Show
2011 ICFF, New York (juried by The Furniture Society)
2012 Reconstructed Rooms, National Museum of Ireland
2012 COMMEMORATE, SPACEcraft, Belfast, Northern Ireland
2012 47th Irish Antiques Dealers Fair, Dublin
2012 Philadelphia Museum of Art Craft Show, Philadelphia, PA, USA
2013-14 Galerie David Hicks, Paris, France
2013 'After & Since', Newtownbarry House, Co. Wexford
2013 48th Irish Antiques Dealers Fair, Dublin
2013 'Waterland', Waterways Ireland Visitors Centre, Dublin
2014 ICFF, New York, with Bespoke Global
2014 Irish Art in Cambridge, Gonville & Caius College Library
2014 Paris Deign Week, Galerie Joseph
2014 49th Irish Antiques Dealers Fair, Dublin
2014 Portfolio, Selected Works, Royal Hibernian Academy
2015 Maison et Objet, Paris, Scenes d'Interieur
2015 Architectural Digest Design Show, NY
2015 Side by Side, National Craft Gallery, Kilkenny
2015 Side by Side, Le Centre Culturel Irlandais, Paris
2015 Portfolio at The Solomon Gallery, Dublin
2015 Playing with Tradition, Dublin Castle
2015 Solomon Fine Art at the Irish Antiques Dealers Fair
2016 Maison et Objet, Paris with Design Ireland, DCCOI
2016 MADE 2016, CDC Belfast
2016 Architectural Digest Design Show, NY
2016 Solomon Fine Art, Dublin
2016 Decorex, London
2016 Solomon Fine Art at the Irish Antiques Dealers Fair
2017 Architectural Digest Design Show, NY
2017 Collective Design Fair, NY, represented by Maison Gerard
2017 Narrative in Making, PORTFOLIO: Critical Selection 2017-2018, National Craft Gallery, Kilkenny
2017 House, RDS Dublin
2017 Decorex, London
2017 Royal Ulster Academy Annual Exhibition at the Ulster Museum
2018 TEFAF New York, featured works with Maison Gerard

Awards

1994 Forbairt Perpetual Craft Trophy, Showcase
1996 RDS Irish Forestry award for Craft in Wood
1996 EBS Crafts Competition
1998 EBS Crafts Competition
1998 Forbairt New Product at Showcase, category winner
1998 Forbairt Perpetual Craft Trophy

1999 EBS Crafts Competition
1999 Plan Expo New Product of the Year award
2000 Plan Expo Best Design-led Furniture award
2001 Irish Joinery Award for Conference Room, Government Supply Agency
2003 Irish Joinery Award for Old Market Room, Irish Stock Exchange, Dublin
2004 Laois National Enterprise Award
2004 RDS National Crafts Competition
2005 Create 2005 John Makepeace Furniture Oscar, shortlist
2015 *PORTFOLIO: Critical Selection 2015-2016*
2015 IFDA NY (International Furnishings and Design Association, NY chapter): Best in Show, Decorative Accessories, Architectural Digest Home Design Show
2015 ADORNO Magazine: Best in Show, overall craftsmanship, Architectural Digest Home Design Show
2017 *PORTFOLIO: Critical Selection 2017-2018*

TV

2012 CraftMaster

Judge

2012-2014 RDS Crafts Competition

Permanent collections

2013 Ladderblack chair: National Museum of Ireland, Collins Barracks
2011 Koi Noir: National Museum of Ireland, Collins Barracks
2004 Drum cabinet: National Museum of Ireland, Collins Barracks
1993 Console table and mirror: Guinness Hopstore

Publications (in which work is reviewed or illustrated)

2005 Standard Setter, Irish Arts Review
2006 Style Source: Ireland Interiors Eoin Lyons, Curragh Press
2007 Rowan Gillespie, Looking for Orion Roger Kohn, O'Brien Press
2008 Fine Woodworking, cover feature
2013 Irish Arts Review, 21st Century Classics by Eleanor Flegg
2013 Financial Times 'How to Spend It' Superior Interiors
2014 Financial Times 'How to Spend It' The Bespokeperson
2015 Financial Times 'How to Spend It' Artistic Storage
2015 Modern Magazine, Gray Today by Jennifer Goff
2015 *PORTFOLIO: Critical Selection 2015-2016*
2016 THE IRISH TIMES: The Kimono Way
2016 Financial Times, 'How to Spend It', Contemporary Irish Craft
2016 Financial Times, 'How to Spend It', Raising the Bar
2017 *PORTFOLIO: Critical Selection 2017-2018*
2017 Financial Times, 'How to Spend It', Superior Interiors: Leaving the Sidelines
2017 The Mayfair Magazine: Into the Woods
2017 The Kensington & Chelsea Magazine: Into the Woods
2017 The Notting Hill & Holland Park Magazine: Into the Woods
2017 The Marylebone & Fitzrovia Magazine: Into the Woods

Selected Commissions

The company's work is in private collections, public offices, embassy residences, museums and churches in Ireland and abroad, from Dublin to Dubai, Brussels to Berlin, Los Angeles to Luxembourg. Corporate clients include XL Insurance (Number 8 St. Stephen's Green), Aer Rianta

(DAA), An Bord Pleanála, Arthur O'Hagan & Co Solicitors, Binchy's Solicitors, Crafts Council of Ireland, Ministry of Defense, Department of Foreign Affairs, Dublin Writers Museum, ESB International, Farrell Grant & Sparks, Fidelity Investments, Forbairt, FTI Finance, the Galway Clinic, Government Supply Agency, Guinness, the Irish Stock Exchange, The Laser Centre, The Merrion Hotel, National Museum of Ireland at Collins Barracks (permanent collection), OPW, Siemens, the Verbal Arts Centre, the Gothic Church at Kylemore Abbey, and the Irish State Guesthouse at Farmleigh.

In 2000, the Department of Foreign Affairs, in association with the Office of Public Works, commissioned ZELOUF+BELL to design and make furniture for the listed Bauhaus residence of the Irish ambassador in Berlin. The company's work in that building was informed by Bauhaus graphics.

In 2001, ZELOUF+BELL won a commission to design and make pieces for a suite of beautifully restored Georgian rooms in the Office of Public Works headquarters on St. Stephen's Green, Dublin. The restoration, carried out with sensitivity, meticulous attention to detail and excellent workmanship, called for a degree of sophistication in the response - a sophistication grounded in restraint, honest materials, traditional techniques and the highest level of craftsmanship. The project was short listed for an Irish Joinery Award in 2002.

In November 2002, the company completed the installation of furniture in the public reception rooms and Ambassador's study in the Embassy of Ireland residence in Tokyo. Inspired by aspects of ancient Celtic art, culture, myth and history, the pieces, though contemporary, incorporate details evocative of a complex, sophisticated, and mystical past, hearkening back to 'the mists of time', a rich legacy that continues to attract visitors to Ireland.

The Irish Stock Exchange, in association with architect Jack Kearney, commissioned ZELOUF+BELL to design and make conference furniture for the refurbished Old Market Room. The suite incorporates certain classical elements, with references to the existing architectural features in the room. The pieces, conceived with careful consideration of the architectural importance of the historic room, are designed as modern classics, with contemporary lines and subtle detailing. This project won first prize in the Irish Joinery Awards furniture category 2003.

ZELOUF+BELL, in association with FitzGerald's of Kells, won the tender to design and make furniture for the Cabinet Room, Department of An Taoiseach, Government Buildings. In December 2003, ZELOUF+BELL installed the furniture in the Embassy of Ireland residence in Canberra, Australia.

In 2005, the company designed and made furniture for the dining room and private chapel in the Embassy of Ireland Residence for the Envoy to the Holy See.

In 2006, work was completed on the Residence of the Joint Secretary in Belfast; the brief called for a variety of textures on both formal and informal pieces in reception, banquet, library and lounge areas.

Winning an OPW tender in 2007 to design and make furniture for the Embassy of Ireland residences in both Lisbon and The Hague, ZELOUF+BELL commissioned several artists, including sculptor Mark Ryan, stained glass artist Peadar Lamb, glass artist Killian Schurmann and Sasha Sykes, providing them with very specific briefs, creating a collection of furniture inspired by the Irish meadow.

Recently completed projects include conference furniture in the Four Courts, Teagasc, Shankill House and Fidelity Investments, a collection of classically inspired pieces for fashion designer Louise Kennedy, the interiors of a private fishing lodge in Galway, a luxury holiday home in Kinsale,

a penthouse apartment in city centre Dublin, a penthouse in the Four Seasons, a Manhattan penthouse overlooking Central Park.

Winning another OPW tender in 2009 to design and make furniture for the Embassy of Ireland residence in Ottawa, Canada, ZELOUF+BELL responded to the brief citing the Irish boglands, using bog oak, bronze and Connemara marble in contemporary designs inspired by turf walls and standing stones, collaborating with artists and designer makers including calligrapher Denis Brown, glass artist Deirdre Rogers, Sasha Sykes of Farm 21 and Bushy Park Ironworks.

In 2013, ZELOUF+BELL was awarded the tender to design and make conference furniture for the listed building, Number 8 St. Stephen's Green an award-winning project. In 2014, ZELOUF+BELL won the tender to design and make reception furniture for the Embassy of Ireland Residence in Beijing, and the Embassy of Ireland in Brussels, with designs inspired by Giant's Causeway.

Recently completed projects include the redesign of Restaurant Patrick Guilbaud (Ireland's only two star Michelin) and conference furniture for the Department of Enterprise and Employment, Kildare Street, Dublin. Selected works may be seen at their Dublin studio, by appointment.