



The Year *of* **PROGRESSIVE** Thinking

In this year's Design Issue, we choose to look forward instead of back. The Cebu Furniture Industries Foundation, Inc. (CFIF) is thinking along the same lines as they rename and revamp themselves **from Cebu X to Cebu Next**. We have that story, as well as one on the **Cebu Design Education Foundation** and its **Chiye Mori Design Library** - essential support systems for our design community. You've come to be familiar with our long-time favorite designers, and in this issue, we introduce you to some new ones. There are furniture designers and sisters Vikki and Paula Rodriguez, and interior designer Hannah Lim. We focus on what's to come, not on what has been. Even decades-old **Pacific Traders** agrees as they discuss with us their plans for the future.

Finally, we have our top picks for **furniture pieces** and **lighting fixtures**. A home makeover is one way to welcome the new year and a new way of thinking.





Cebu *from* X *to* Next

by ROSEMEL CALDERON

The whole world suffers from the economic crunch badly affecting the US, and being 70% dependent on the US market, the Cebu furniture industry immediately catches the cold virus even when America is still about to sneeze.

We don't have to go very far to get empirical evidence for this, as there is no better reflection of the state of the Cebu

furniture industry than the performance of Cebu X - the annual international furniture and furnishings exhibition.

For more than two decades, Cebu X has consistently been the platform showcasing the industry's best in terms of creativity, craftsmanship, excellent designs, material innovation, and use of technology. This explains why leading furniture brands all over the world source from Cebu up to this day. Ethan Allen, McGuire, Moooi, Neiman Marcus, Armani Casa, Baker, Nautica are but a few of these brands.

Ten for 10



Bloom Chair

Winner of the Outstanding Quality and Design Innovation Award at the *Maison et Objet*, Kenneth Cobonpue's Bloom Chair is handmade out of micro-fiber stitched over a resin top with a steel base. It comes in moss green, light green, yellow or red.

On nature:

"I think Cebu and its surrounding islands inspire much of my designs today. As a boy, I was always taken by the richness of nature around me. Years later, I realized that I can access all those memories to move forward."

Kenneth Cobonpue

Interior Crafts of the Islands
www.kennethcobonpue.com

These fresh furniture finds make our annual list of favorites. Leaders in the furniture front share what makes a piece a design piece.

text KATSY BORROMEO photography JOSEPH ONG

Keitaro Sofa

This classic piece with clean lines and minimalist design will go well with any home décor. Made of oak and Malaysian wood, it's a chameleon piece that will serve you for years. The stained cappuccino finish is perfect with the neutral caramel cushion. Strong yet subtle, this piece is elegant in its simplicity.

Cebu Home and Builders Center
www.cebuhomeandbuilders.com



Fink Lounge Chair

The *Fink Lounge* is this design duo's entry to the permanent archive of the School of Architecture at Pratt Institute. The suspended body structure is a classic exercise that immediately contextualizes an array of parameters that an architect must explore as it involves an immediate interaction with one-to-one elements in design, structure, assembly, detail, and program. Through a variety of prototypes in cardboard, wood, and full scale models, the suspended body structure is designed to immediately accommodate multiple postures and programs in a single structure.

Franz Igancio and Natalia Kagkou