



The Edge Beirut (Lamps, Tables, Stools) by Tarek Elkassouf
2014 - 2015, Silver A' Young Design Award Winner



Inspiration

The Edge Beirut is inspired by the designer's home-city. It takes a cue from the city of Beirut, a city always on the edge of instability, chaos, creativity and adaptability. It is an interpretation of these often conflicting characteristics, with designs that reflect the vulnerability yet resilience and adaptability of Beirut. The Edge is also inspired by the designer's Middle Eastern upbringing and his architectural background, with precepts of repetition and geometric patterns of Arabic architecture engaged.



Creativity

This series tries to capture the essence of a city living on the edge through the contradiction of solid yet malleable steel designs. At the heart of this series is the cube. Each design takes the pure form of a cube, distorts, bends and twists it with such precision that if unbent and untwisted it would return to its original cube form. For all but two of the submitted designs, the geometric form of each unit also allows it to fit together with other units into various shapes and forms to suit different tastes and layouts.



Design Challenges

Lebanon does not have a developed manufacturing sector. The designer however believed it was essential that the designs were made in Lebanon in order for the collection to be true to its inspiration - Beirut. The primary reasons there is no thriving manufacturing sector in the country also affected the designers smaller-scale production. These include electricity problems, infrastructure problems and constant instability with war in neighbouring Syria. Such factors often led to unforeseeable delays in the designers production. Finding artisans was another challenge.



Production Technology

These limited edition steel designs are hand-made from steel and glass. They are hand-welded, assembled and painted by artisans in Lebanon.