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KOLKATA AND SEYCHELLES

## office block

Squaring up to the task of making pared-down work stations alluring meant this Hamburg pair had to hold back on the knobs and handles and let the form and materials speak for themselves writer sophie lovell photographer heribert schindler

Office furniture is rarely something that has us gagging for overtime, but Ole Grönwoldt and Max Wehberg, two young Hamburg-based designers, make bespoke *Büromöbel* that we'd be happy to get tied to. Their highly desirable, pared-down pieces are already propping up the iBooks and elbows of four German film production companies and they're planning an assault on next year's Salone in Milan. Grönwoldt's background is in TV and film production design, while Wehberg's previous exploits include creating theatre sets and turning out a range of park furniture for the Volkswagen Car City in Wolfsburg. The two met at college and later both became members of the loose creative collective Hansastrasse in Hamburg. The collective initially made a name for themselves with film sets but Grönwoldt and Wehberg decided to diversify when, in 2001, Laszlo Kadar Film approached them to design its office interiors.

Working together for the first time on this project, Grönwoldt and Wehberg found themselves with the beginnings of a range of custom-made furniture. They found they functioned well together on individual projects, 'a sort of coming together, fertilisation and separating,' says Wehberg, without a hint of innuendo.

As the pair began to get more commissions, their style became increasingly distinctive. Their preferred look is simple, solid and pure. Knobs, handles and frivolous extras have no place in Grönwoldt and Wehberg's design vocabulary. Press-and-release opening mechanisms are the only permitted catches. Surfaces are lacquered in what Grönwoldt calls 'un-colours'—a muted palette somewhere between beige and ivory— or sport thick, richly textured veneers. The only flashes of rich colour are cached in the interiors of drawers and cupboards. Their delicious double





### time honoured

Louis Vuitton has been all round the colour spectrum recreating the earthy brown of its very first watch, the 'Tambour'. Inspired by the first watch of the West, the 'Drum', it is sturdy – think luggage-quality stitching – without being chunky. An instant keeper. *J.F.*  
 'Tambour' watch, £1,680, by Louis Vuitton, tel: 44.20 7399 4050



### sniff it out

Black truffles are the secret ingredient in SCO's new Refining Face Scrub. As well as having antioxidant properties, it absorbs UV rays while sloughing off dry cells. And we just thought it tasted great shaved on some fresh pasta. *J.F.*  
 Refining Face Scrub, \$80, by SCO, 230 Mulberry Street, New York, tel: 1.888 966 SCOB, www.scocare.com

### warm front

The inspiration behind Holland & Holland's new Luxury Adventure range obviously has everything to do with English explorers past and reeks of shooting weekends in Scotland with Uncle Charlie. However their winter woolies and sturdy leather satchel bags look just as good traipsing through Central Park. *J.F.*  
 Polo-neck, £625; cardigan, £650; trousers, £250; scarf, £450, all by Holland & Holland, tel: 44.20 7499 4411



### skin deep

While dermatologist's don't sound like the most alluring of places, Skinklinic sees itself as more of a 'medispa'. Stocking the best aqua-serene scrubs in the industry, all treatments are put together by a board-certified dermatologist. Book in for its hi-tech enzyme peel repair treatment, while a 'skinscription' of personalised Skinklinic remedies are set to see you well into winter. *J.F.*  
 Skinklinic, 800b 5th Avenue, New York, tel: 1.212 759 7242