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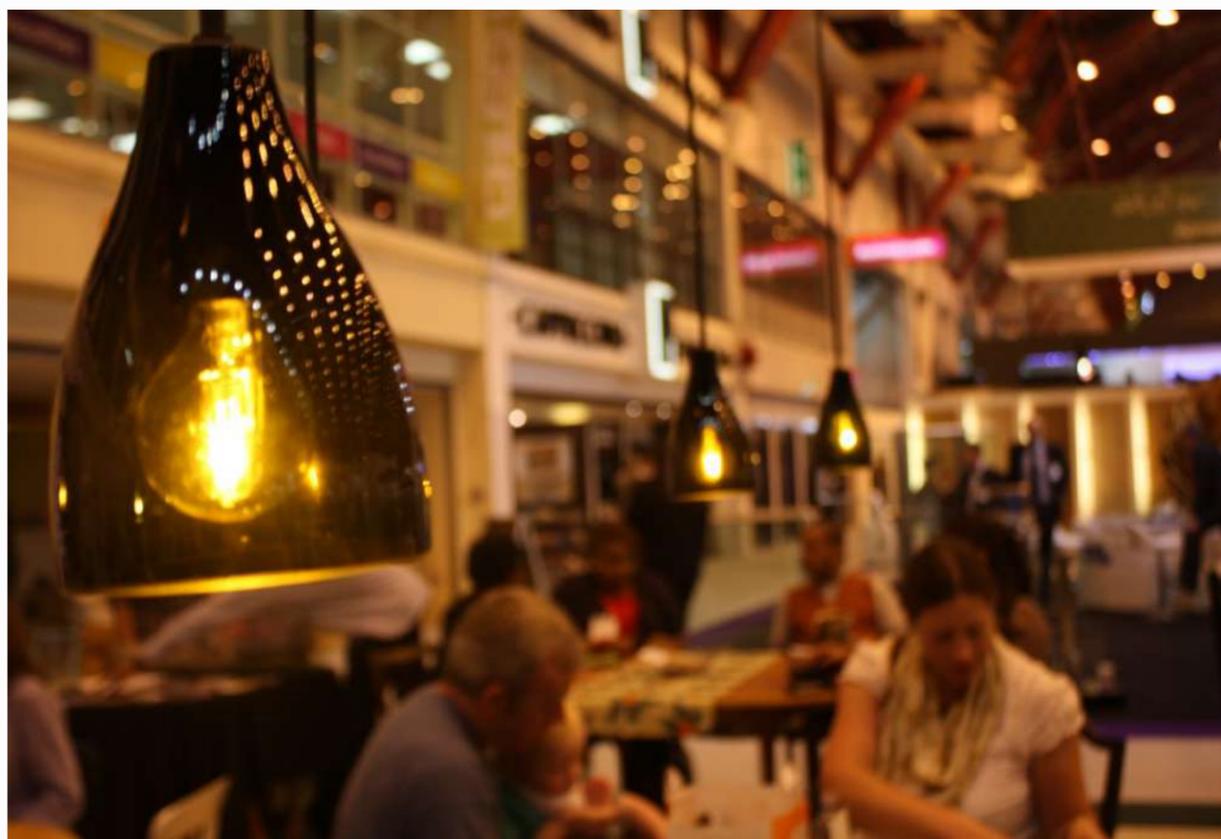
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Design Reincarnated in The Re-Loved Lounge

September 24, 2011 in [Design](#), [Design & Art](#), [Sustainable Design](#) with [1 Comment](#)



One of the most popular hot spots at this year's 100% Design exhibition has got to be the Re-Loved Lounge, a communal cafe space for guests to take a break from the busy exhibition trail. Far from simply being a dining area, the Re-Loved Lounge is an interactive exhibition space showcasing vibrant pieces of work by a selection of African and African-Caribbean designers.

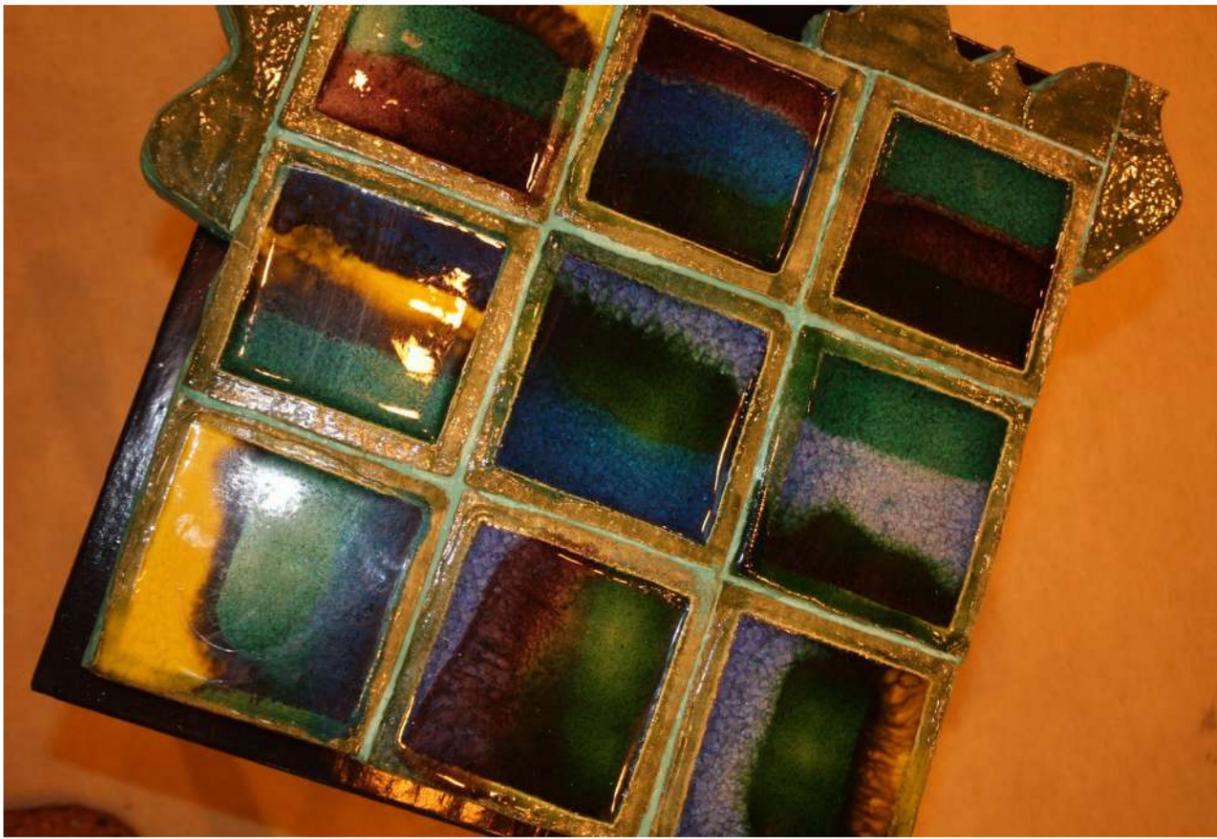
The lounge was commissioned as part of the African & African-Caribbean Design Diaspora, a festival of events taking place as part of London Design Week. The Festival is a celebration of diversity, highlighting creative talent within the African and African-Caribbean community in the UK. As Clemens Hackl, Creative Director at AACDD puts it; "There is such an incredible array of creative talent within the black community...Let's see it!"

The Re-Loved Lounge is just one of several AACDD exhibitions on display over the course of the festival. The brief for the designers was to 're-love' and 'up-cycle' discarded furniture, transforming it once again into desirable objects for the home. These recycled works take on African and African-Caribbean design inspiration in fabrics, colour schemes and accessories and in their resulting beauty, challenge the ethos of our throw-away consumer culture.

Rather than showcasing these pieces in the sterility of an exhibition stand where they would become spectator pieces, curators of the space were keen to put together an exhibition that allows guests to interact with the work, to touch, feel and utilise the pieces. Laurence Kanza, who's own work makes up parts of the collection explained; "these pieces are vibrant and colourful and it makes sense that they should be part of a living space". These 'vibrant' colours and patterns are reflective of the warm and joyful culture that inspired them, resulting in one of the most inviting areas of the exhibition.

Designers whose work makes up the Re-Love Lounge include Laurence Kanza ([La Petite Congolaise](#)) and [Emamoke Ukeleghe](#), whose daringly colourful fabric designs make a bold and beautiful statement throughout the space. The large central banqueting table was created by [Alexander Mulligan](#) using recycled wood and the string of hanging lights above the table were made using recycled wine bottles, designed by Taslim Martin.





Above:

“Rescuing The Supermodel” by artist [Adjani Okpu-Egbe](#), on display in the Re-Loved Lounge.

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