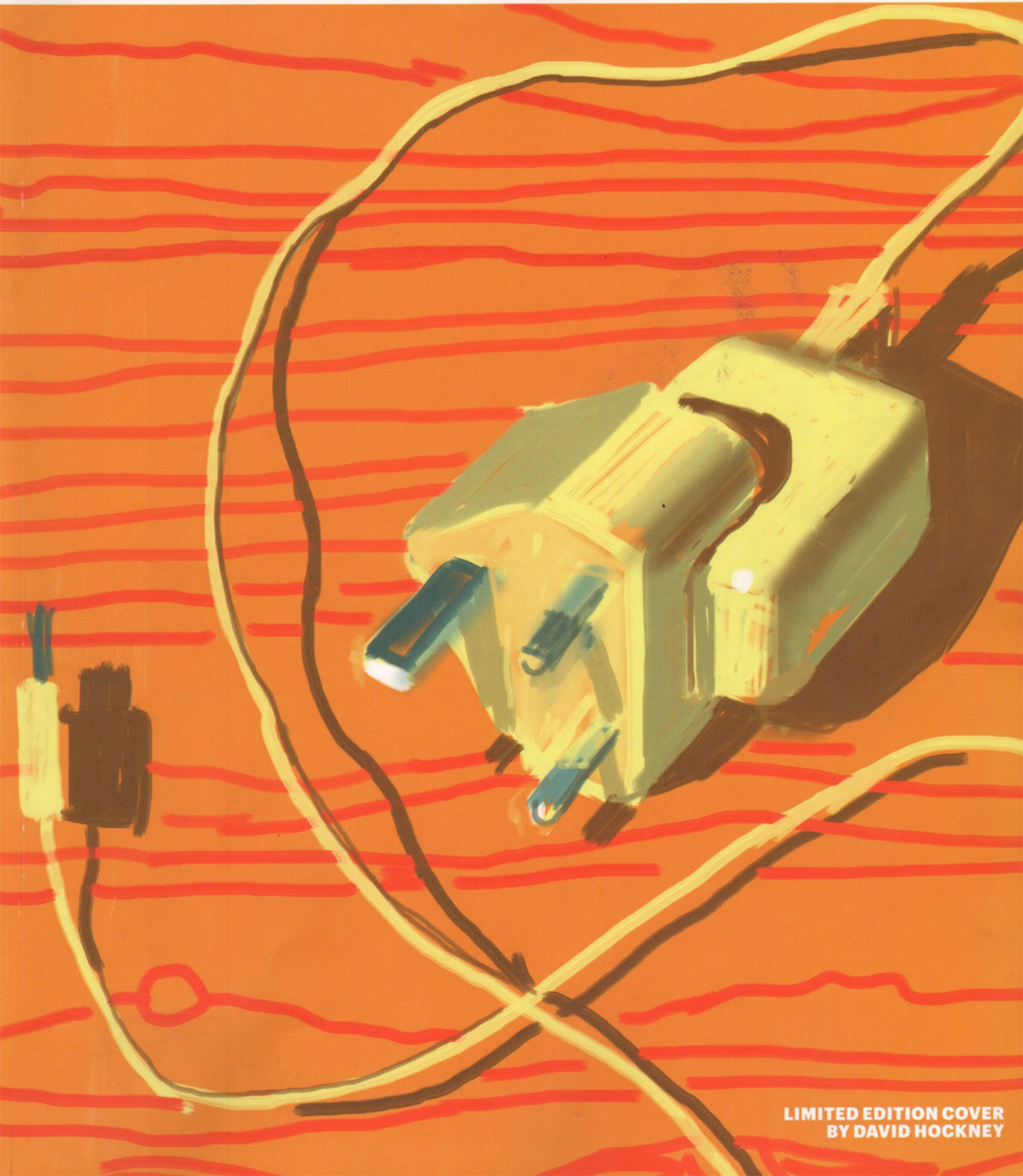


Wallpaper*

JANUARY 2012

*DESIGNINTERIORSFASHIONARTLIFESTYLE

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LIMITED EDITION COVER
BY DAVID HOCKNEY

the country's thriving creative scene. The buzz has been about architecture, music and dance; in street art, fashion and graphics, too, Spain has put forward its share of exciting young contenders competing on the global stage. Now, following in the footsteps of local-turned-international design luminaries such as Jaime Hayón, Patricia Urquiola and Héctor Serrano, it's a new generation of product and furniture designers that is causing a stir.

2011 has been an exceptionally good year for Spanish design. Despite economic turbulence, the homegrown manufacturing sector in furniture and lighting is not only looking sharp but is brimming with confidence. A fresh crop of young talent is emerging, in particular from Valencia – a centre for furniture making and home to the ever-improving, annual FERIA Hábitat trade show, which is proving a launch pad for young designers – and from Barcelona, which effortlessly attracted the world's design glitterati in November when it hosted the first Inside World Festival of Interiors.

Playful yet pragmatic, sustainable and defiantly down to earth, but at the same time relentlessly individual, Spain's new generation of designers share a stubborn refusal to be categorised, stereotyped or in any other way limited. For all the designers on these pages, only a couple – Xavier Mañosa the rebel ceramicist and 'Surprise!' designer Gaspar González – specialise in a single field. For the others, industrial and furniture design sit happily in their studios alongside graphics, branding, packaging and even illustration. This multidisciplinary approach informs their work as much as it gives them freedom to manoeuvre, both in these progressive Spanish cities and far beyond.

Barcelona

01 GASPAR GONZÁLEZ

González has lived in Madrid, Valencia, London, Delft and Barcelona, where he studied product design at EINA. With past clients including Bisazza and Hansgrohe, his 'Surprise!' series of chairs (pictured) for Barcelona-based chair maker Concepta lives up to its name in being both a big departure for the brand and a considerable success.

02 APPARATU

Xavier Mañosa

Born into a family of potters, ceramicist Mañosa continues the family business with production based in Sant Cugat near Barcelona and offices in Berlin. He is the innovative designer of 'Pleat Box' (pictured), a collection of lamps and ceramic objects made in conjunction with Berlin studio Mashallah, and 'Arquitecturas' (pictured on table), a range of architecture-inspired vases.

