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ON THE FOLD

Origami, or the Japanese art of folding paper sculpture, seems to be behind many furniture concepts this year, with imaginative designs crafted from sheets of metal or plastic that fold and pivot into 3-D form to become furniture. But beyond the clever engineering and aesthetics, designers have cut wastage and carbon footprint with products that can be shipped flat or knocked down.

The **Paper task light** in Durapulp by **Claesson Koivisto Rune** for Swedish lighting firm **Wastberg**, is a sheet of renewable biopolymer paper folded into a slender wand with an LED bulb at its tip (www.sodra.com).

In the same eco-spirit is **Sny**, an elegant aluminium chair from **Bysteel** made with no soldering or wasted material. The laser-cut structure is folded and fastened with ropes.

Young Israeli designer **Ran Amitai** created a more decorative version with **Nature of Material**, a series of aluminium stackable chairs and stools. The metal is laser-cut to perforate the joints, then folded to create origami-style folds, resulting in an organic upholstery-like shape.

Another innovative concept was German designer **AWG3's Plicio foldable DIY furniture** inspired by a ladybug's wing. Applying biomimetics to the construction, six-mm-thick lacquered cardboard is folded into a chair. Secured by a single knotted rope, no screws and anchors are needed.

The world may not need another chair, but it certainly needs fresh perspectives like these to breathe new life into the design world. >



IN ORIGAMI,
A FOLDED SHEET
OF METAL OR
PAPER CAN
BECOME A
LAMP, CHAIR OR
ANYTHING YOU
DREAM UP.

1, 4 When folded and secured by a rope, the **Plicio** is transformed from a single sheet into a striking, 3-D seat or table. German furniture maker **AWG3** based their design on the way a ladybug's wing folds.
2 **Ran Amitai's** colourful stackable stools are simply folds and curves: The laser-cut metal is perforated, then bent to create natural and straight origami-style folds. For Israeli design collective **Bakery Studio**.
3 A slender wand made of hardy biopolymer **Durapulp**, the **Paper task light** by **Claesson Koivisto Rune** for lighting firm **Wastberg**.
5 **Bysteel's Sny** chair is made from a single sheet of aluminium. Designer **Stefano Pirovano** made sure no material was discarded, except from the holes for the ropes and screws.

