

## INNOVATORS

## Designer's hands-on approach

IT WAS while he was involved in making furniture for the Scottish Parliament several years ago that then industrial designer Justin Vecchio says he decided he wanted to design and make furniture.



"That was the point where I saw design was fine but it's actually making the stuff that

I really enjoy ...," recalls the 28-year-old, whose work included a debating desk and a desk for ministers.

"I don't particularly want to design stuff and get it manufactured by other people. Basically my aim is to be a furniture designer-maker."

Mr Vecchio spent about 18 months working for Scottish furniture manufacturer Ben Dawson Furniture after studying industrial design at Queensland University of Technology.

Having returned to Australia

and undertaken further study — this time a diploma of arts (furniture design) at RMIT, which he's still completing — he's been designing and making furniture for the past couple of years. Last year he launched his own company, Vecchio Design.

His works to date have included a hallway piece that can serve as a coat rack, shelving and occasional seat as well as a geometrically interesting chair known as Bring to Light.

Mr Vecchio says that with both pieces, he wanted to create

furniture that was functional as well as sculptural.

Noting that he enjoys experimenting with proportions and geometry, Mr Vecchio says he creates his pieces through a process that involves bringing all his ideas together and then "paring back" until he's captured the essence of what a particular piece is about.

His INandOUT hallway stand, for example, includes a lot



## Contact

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of "negative space" where the gaps help to shape the final look. "It's more what's not there than what is there."

Mr Vecchio, who has a workshop at the Wood Design Centre in North Melbourne, primarily uses Australian timbers in his furniture and says he's keen to explore what it has to offer before moving on to other materials.

"I think there's a lot of scope in using native Australian timbers," he says.

DAVID ADAMS



Justin Vecchio and his Bring to Light chair (far left) and INandOUT hallway stand (top left).