



## AB INSIGHTS : Mood Swings

### Issue1

Welcome to Insights, our regular monthly feature - providing detailed information, reviews and 'on topic' interviews that we feel may be relevant to your practice.

Inside, copper smith Stephen Myburgh presents his mood swing collection.

## Myburgh Designs

Britain's leading contemporary copper smith, Stephen Myburgh, presents his mood swing collection.

More than just the world's most luxurious and beautiful swinging seats, the Mood Swing collection makes art out of the traditional hanging seat, delivering an elegant solution to creative luxury in any space. Each piece is a bespoke, hand crafted limited item, signed and numbered for prosperity.

Artist Stephen Myburgh handcrafts his exquisite sculptural swing chairs in copper to form irresistible pieces for the home, office and garden. Originally from South Africa, Stephen now lives in Hampshire, where he creates all his pieces in his Myburgh Designs studio.

The swings flow from Stephen's desire to bring objects of exceptional beauty into the world. Over the past 15 years he has been living and working with copper, constantly pulling and pushing the boundaries of what convention says can be done with the material. Rather than mass-produce his pieces, they are each hand crafted in the UK with great skill to form rare objects of extraordinary beauty.

He explains, "It's about one object saying it all, one piece setting the mood for its environment. Swinging seats have always brought joy and relaxation into our lives. Whether it's a simple seat suspended from a tree in the garden, or a swinging sofa on the veranda, we love them and are drawn to them. What I love about Myburgh Designs swings is that we can take this so much further; we can deliver an enchanting object that delights. We usher beauty and opulence into peoples lives through our sensual swings."

Copper, with its sumptuous aesthetic qualities and playful malleability, enchants him. His pieces flow from his experimentation with different forms and his exploration of the multitude of strikingly beautiful patinas that can be created.

To bring his pieces to life Stephen uses a mixture of traditional and modern day coppersmithing techniques.

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He implements a number of patinas and finishes to create a range of effects, from the lustrously bright and highly polished to antiquated deep green. Once completed, a protective coat is applied that prevents the environment from changing the swing's patina any further.

He takes pleasure in watching people savour the unexpectedly enchanting experience of interacting with his swings. As they slip down into the glowing copper, supported yet swinging slightly in a sustained harmonic motion, the sounds change, the light changes, everything changes; they are enveloped and cannot help but be calmed. He feels passionate about the effect his pieces have on the lives of those living with them. Some days they will admire them from afar, other days they will find sitting in them irresistible.

As he explains "Myburgh Designs swings do more than furnish a space, they bring to their environment an element of fantasy, of pure delight, they become an object of awe in the home."

His first collection of swings were designed for outdoor spaces, and exhibited internationally for over a decade. He has since brought out a collection of swings for the interior environment, which form commanding and enchanting pieces to live with.

The finishing processes Stephen utilises mean all of his pieces are suitable for inside and outside, and will not corrode.

## Interiors

Myburgh Designs swings make wondrous pieces for contemporary homes and corporate environments. Their sculptural form is the ideal combination of art and function, bringing more than a hint of luxury into the space.

Whether they gaze out over commanding cityscapes, monumental mountains or calm countryside, those sat within their glowing embrace will be delighted.

Stephen makes a range of stylish stands that support and complement his pieces, and work well in a variety of environments.

*"Admire from a distance; cherish from within..."*

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## Gravity

The Gravity swing was specifically designed for the interior market. Its seductively elegant, elongated and sculptural form makes it the ultimate luxury statement piece. The swings sleek contours support you in a comfortable and elegant recline.



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Gravity has been installed in a wide range of interior environments, from offices with a view to big bay kitchen windows to glass walled lounges that overlook the garden. It is a stunning piece that can be adapted to suit the colouring of various environments through altering the finish of its patina, as it can be brightly polished, golden brown or antiquated green.

### **Ostara**

Stephen's most popular swing, the Ostara is exceedingly comfortable for two to recline in, and suitable for interior and exterior environments. The swing looks best when highly polished, as it reflects a warming glow onto the occupants, which is both invigorating and amazing for photos.

Stephen is working on a smaller Ostara suitable for cosier spaces that will seat one person.



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### **Ripple**



To create the Ripple swing, Stephen uses an unusual technique to fold the copper into waves, a method that is as yet unseen in the market, and has induced an alluring green patina that is incredibly striking. Many have commented that the acoustics experienced when sat in the ripple swing are particularly moving, creating an almost otherworldly atmosphere inside.

### **Exteriors**

Stephen's first pieces were designed for outdoors, forming places where people, product and environment could enjoy each other in perfect harmony. He has a range of designs that can be suspended from tree branches or from sleek yet sturdy stands. All of Stephen's swings can be placed outside due to their resilient finishes.

Stephen has always been driven by the desire to bring more beauty in to the world, and has found copper to be his best medium to do so. He lives by the motto "making beautiful things on this planet in my lifetime is enough."

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Myburgh Designs

Inventive Beauty for Creative Living

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