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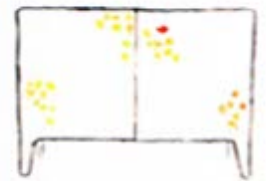# THE MELLOWING OF WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON

By Peter Baker

Alessandra Baldereschi

Before studying industrial design at the Domus Academy in Milan, 34-year-old Alessandra Baldereschi studied art, and never recovered. "I think about projects as image," she explained. She loves embellishing a straightforward form, as she did with the Soufflé chair for CoinCasa — a clear plastic cover stuffed with colorful cushions — or with her collection of "four seasons" wood cabinets, shown here, for Skitsch. Baldereschi's minimalist, white-lacquered design features ornate knobs — far more than are functionally necessary — on the doors. She called her first cabinet Winter (it had mother-of-pearl knobs), and Skitsch liked the piece so much that it asked for Spring, Summer and Fall. The designer, who was recruited by Skitsch's co-art director Cristina Morozzi, searched the Internet for knobs in "elegant and precious" materials, including hand-painted ceramics and glass. Baldereschi loves the "hybridization" of plain and fancy. "I'm romantic," she said.

Nacho Carbonell

The 28-year-old Spanish designer Nacho Carbonell is, at heart, a storyteller — and one with a vivid imagination at that. For "Craft Punk," the Design Academy Eindhoven graduate brought a heap of discarded Fendi leather scraps to life in a series of beastly creatures (some of which could be ridden or sat upon). His womblike papier-mâché Evolution chairs and benches — handmade from the newspapers that accumulated in his house — are his retreat from information overload. Such ideas are not so much a statement about the environment (though he insists that "waste" is as good a material to work with as anything you could pick up in a store) as they are an attempt to imbue inanimate design objects with an emotional core. For the coming Design Miami/Basel fair, he is making a chair out of leaves and sawdust. "It's a chair with a goal," he said: "It wants to become a tree."