

VENUS
MANHATTAN

“Fired,” *Frame*, November/December 2014

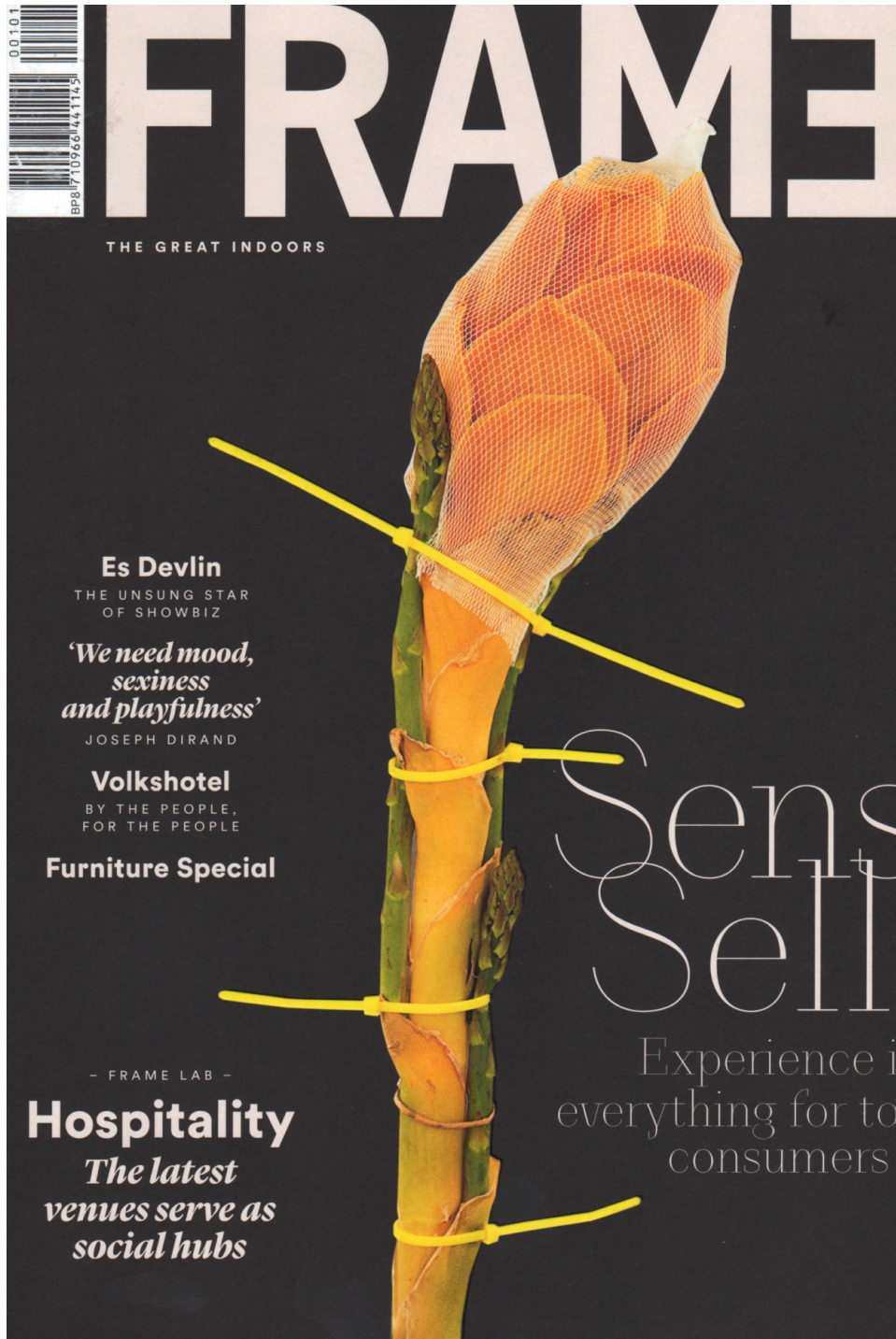




Photo: Daniel Visscher

— NATURAL INSTINCT —

Growing Design

Research takes all-natural production methods to another level

Italian designer Maurizio Montalti explores all-natural production methods, using fungal organisms to make plates, vases, bowls and other objects. At Officina Corpuscoli, his Amsterdam studio, Montalti is working on an ongoing project he calls 'The Growing Lab', a study of fungal mycelia: intricate filamentary networks that provide him with a basis for building new materials. He collects mycelia from various places, including agricultural waste, and has mounted an exhibition, *The Future of Plastic*, to convey that 'the easiest way to a more sustainable production method is the use of natural processes'. Visitors see the designer's latest products and learn how existing polymers will offer designers new possibilities in the future – a future in which biodegradable materials are set to make design more volatile. Montalti is currently looking into the manufacture of fungi-based upholstery fabrics. — **KvM**

corpuscoli.com

FRAMB

In *Frame*'s November app, learn about other inventive ways to shave *The Rug*



Photo: Bruce Boudell

— SCOUTED —

Close Shave

Stefan Auberg

Dutch designer Stefan Auberg taps into our dissatisfaction with predetermined forms of interaction. The Rietveld graduate – and former Martino Gamper employee – rids us of our typically shy attitude to design objects and encourages us to be more demanding, or simply more playful. The *Rug*, for example, comes with pile-shavers for trimming the plush surface to reveal underlying layers of different colours. It's a DIY product with surprising visual potential. On another note: do you remember when you were a child and loved to destroy stuff? Well, now you can dig in. — **NB**

stefanauberg.com

FRAMB

Frame's December app examines how to 'grow' design

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— THE FINAL EDIT —

Fired

'We live at a time where the borders between art and design have come down almost entirely,' says art dealer and auctioneer Simon de Pury, who has made his first foray into the art world since his departure from Phillips de Pury & Company in early 2013. Under the name de Pury de Pury, Simon and his wife Michaela curated an exhibition of ceramic and glass works entitled *Fire!* at New York's Venus Over Manhattan gallery.

On his choice of curatorial theme, De Pury notes that the current technological revolution has not inhibited a strong resurgence of interest in ceramics and glass, which he labels a 'lost child' that lies at the intersection of art and design. The show features pieces by 17 artists, including Ai Weiwei, Sterling Ruby, Josh Smith, Márten Medbo and Takuro Kuwata, who works exclusively with ceramics. Visitors are treated to a broad picture of how these fragile materials add to the scope of contemporary art – from the beautiful glass creations of French-Lebanese artist Flavie Audi 1 to Friedrich Kunath's collection of colourful two-part ceramic seals 2 and American artist Dan McCarthy's playful *Facepot* vases 3. — **MH**

depurydepury.com

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