

# WOOD DESIGN



Spiral chest of drawers (1991) pear incrustated with walnut

## Designs for Generations

### The Austrian designer Peter Zuchi

Peter Zuchi, a design craftsman working in Vienna, was born into a farming family in Styria (Austria) in 1944. He served an apprenticeship as a joiner, passing the master craftsman examination in 1966, and has worked in Vienna since.

Over the years he has established a reputation for hand-made furniture items which are notable not only for their excellent quality but also sophisticated design.

Zuchi was worried by the fact that design form was subject to the whims of fashion

to such a great extent and that the materials and structures used in most furniture condemned them to a relatively short life. Naturally, he realized that functionality and form requirements change with time, but he nevertheless set himself the task of making objects whose explicit design and sturdy finishing would ensure that they lasted for decades if not generations.

This was the basis for "Art Incrusta", which stands for high quality, distinctive form and finishing and choice materials. Chip-

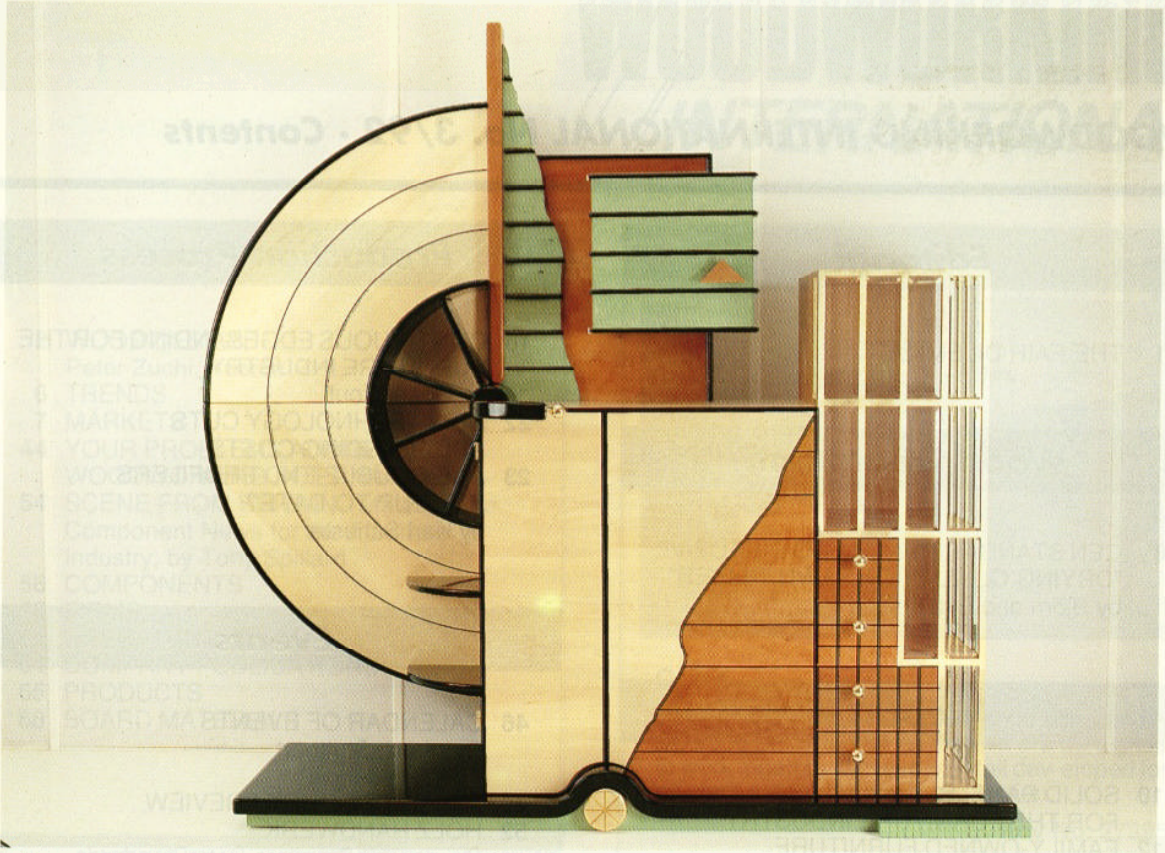
board, for example, is completely rejected. Exposed outer surfaces have cut rather than sliced veneer of 3 to 4 mm thickness and all hardware is tested for quality and durability. Incrustation is used by Zuchi as an additional design element.

Unlike intarsia (in which the veneer sheets are joined and glued) incrustation calls for the inlaying of a piece of solid wood or other material in the surface of the wood. Over the years Zuchi has developed a special incrustation technique which enables him to offer precisely finished, hand-made pieces.

Each "Art Incrusta" item is unique, the result of days of manual work. Inquiries from far and wide (including Japan and America) ensure that none of these items remain on the shelves for very long! "I am convinced," says Zuchi, "that durable, high-quality products are important from an ecological point of view. Those of us who work with natural resources must be aware of our responsibility."



Desk with chair (1988) pear incrustated with walnut



Tabernacle (1986) maple and walnut, glass cabinet gold-plated

Shelf (1987) maple incrustated with pear

Glass cabinet (1987) maple incrustated with pear and maple

