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## Skram: back in the saddle

*The International Contemporary Furniture Fair, May 2010*

This spring at the ICFF in New York City, North Carolina based Skram Furniture Company is set to debut an assortment of new items by lead designer A. Jacob Marks. Among these is Saddlestool, an item which boldly underlines Skram's mission to craft approachable modern furniture of unparalleled workmanship.

At once dramatic and understated, Saddlestool is a stunning addition to Skram's seating collection. As the name indicates, the new item is a stool constructed of heavy-weight saddle leather and informed by techniques of Western saddlery.



Of the new design, Marks observes, "My vision for the piece sprung from the desire to highlight the structural, tactile qualities of saddle leather in an unmistakably modern context."

Beyond the overlap in material (saddle leather) and function (you sit on it), the defiantly low-tech design also references traditional saddlery in its construction. Saddlestool is handmade: the only tools employed are sharp knives, needles, and awls. The leather is hand-mitered and joined with high strength waxed linen thread using the saddle-stitch method.

With Saddlestool Skram applies its trademark workmanship to an innovative concept. Austere yet refined, functional yet striking, Saddlestool is quintessentially Skram.

The item is offered in two standard sizes: 12w/d x 18h and 10w/d x25h, as well as three standard options for the drum-dyed vegetable tanned leather: black, tan, and chestnut. Like most Skram furniture, Saddlestool is customizable in material and scale.



Press, retailer, and customer inquiries may be directed to Skram at 919 245 0045 or sales@skramfurniture.com.

## ABOUT SKRAM FURNITURE

Lead designer and owner Jacob Marks was recently named one of the top 50 young designers of the Americas in *Young Designers: Americas*, a Daab publication. His work is rooted in a philosophy that argues for the "inextricability of good design and fine workmanship." A self-taught furniture maker and designer, Jacob's furnishings show technical mastery while exuding warmth and enduring value. The Skram workshop is a 17,000 square foot studio located in a 100 year old former cotton mill in Hillsborough, North Carolina, a colonial town in the state's Piedmont region. It is organized to permit the efficient manufacture of Skram products, and makes possible Skram's undertaking of major projects. Jacob is ably assisted by longtime friend and floor manager Seth Tice-Lewis and six other expert craftsmen. According to Marks, "Every piece is built by someone, myself included, who is striving for perfection every time. Workmanship is an easy word to throw around, but for us it is more than a slogan." Skram's commitment to authentic materials, innovative design, and sustainable practices provides entrée to high-profile projects in the residential, commercial, and hospitality markets. Their pieces can be modified in material, scale, or configuration to accommodate specific needs for a truly custom solution.