



BIKES GET PUNKT ▶

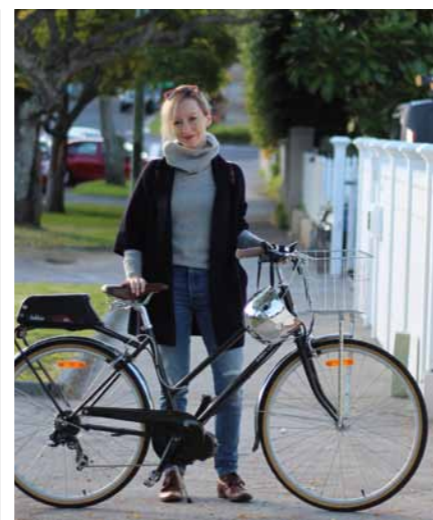
Swiss technology and design brand Punkt unveiled three unusual bicycles at Milan Design Week recently. The bikes are a product of the brand's Urban Mobility project, which tasked students from three of Europe's leading design schools to create a bike specific to their city's needs (London, Eindhoven and Lausanne). The London iteration is made to be loaned out to users of co-working spaces, with a detachable battery that must be brought in for recharging, a built-in navigation system and space for luggage on a front-mounted tray. The Dutch bike (pictured above) has an elongated bench-style seat and footrests to allow for doubling passengers (commonplace in the Netherlands), as well as a sturdy stand so that it can be used as a street-side seat when not in use. Students from the Swiss school created their bike (pictured right) to respond to the hilly terrain of their city, with a battery that collects energy from its downhill journeys and stores it for uphill climbs.

<http://bit.ly/2pb8s0I>



◀ COFFEE ON YOUR SHIRT

Cyclists who try to consume hot drinks on their morning commute might be accustomed to wearing their coffee, but now there is a clothing label offering cycling gear made from the discarded grounds. Auckland cycling outfitter Paul Mason from Solo Cycle Clothing has created a jersey made using S.Café® Innovation fabric P4DRY™, which is created from coffee grounds and professes to be quick drying, with odour control and reduced condensation, as well as being environmentally sustainable. solo.cc



Humans of the bike path

Illustrator and blogger **Katy Wakefield** stops chic cyclists on the streets to pick their brains and take a snap of their get-up. We decided to turn the tables.

Why make the Auckland Bike Style blog?

I spent a few years in Europe and the UK, where I fell in love with city cycling. When I moved back to Auckland, I wanted to ride my bike here, but I wasn't seeing many other people doing it, apart from cyclists in lycra out for training rides. It definitely didn't seem like a very bike-friendly city. Starting the blog gave me the excuse to find other people who rode bikes here and ask them about their experiences, getting their tips and tricks, and this gave me a bit of extra courage to ride, too. Also I'm a fan of Cycle Chic blogs overseas; they're fun to look at and a great way of increasing the visibility of urban cyclists.

Tell us about your bike.

It's a new Bobbin Bramble, which I bought through Lyttelton Bikes. It has seven speeds and is a sparkly, dark, olive green. I added a Wald basket, and had it converted to an electric bike with a Lekkie kit. It flies up hills and is a dream to ride.

Why ride?

All your senses are alive – the feel of crisp air, catching the fragrance of jasmine from neighbourhood gardens, the thrill of coasting down hills. It feels great to be so connected to your surroundings. Also, it's really practical; you never have to hunt for a car park or sit in traffic, and it's good for the planet.

While riding you...

Hum, daydream, check out architecture and keep a close eye on cars.

Do you think Auckland is or can be a bike-friendly city?

There are some positive changes being made; however, we will really see transformational change when we start building protected cycle lanes down main streets past shops, cafés and businesses. Most people don't feel comfortable cycling alongside cars, which is the current situation on most of our roads.

Do you have a bike ride on your bucket list?

Riding in a protected cycle lane down Ponsonby Road one day! Also, I've heard there are beautiful cycle paths along the canals in France, which are definitely on my list.

aucklandbikestyle.com

Living House

Rochelle and Joel Payne are building their own home. The catch? It is a rammed-earth house that seeks to achieve ratings in three of the most stringent energy-efficiency certifications: The Living Building Challenge, Passive House and Homestar™. So... what bit them? "We started off just targeting The Living Building Challenge as this has not been done before for a residential house in New Zealand, and represented a challenge for me professionally," Rochelle, a sustainability assessor and engineer, explains. She also quotes Passive House designer Elrond Burrell as being crucial in their incorporating Homestar into the mix.

Among many other rules, the house must be self-sufficient in terms of energy and water generation, wastewater treatment and stormwater discharge. To help meet these requirements, the couple will use rammed-earth walls, which they are making themselves.

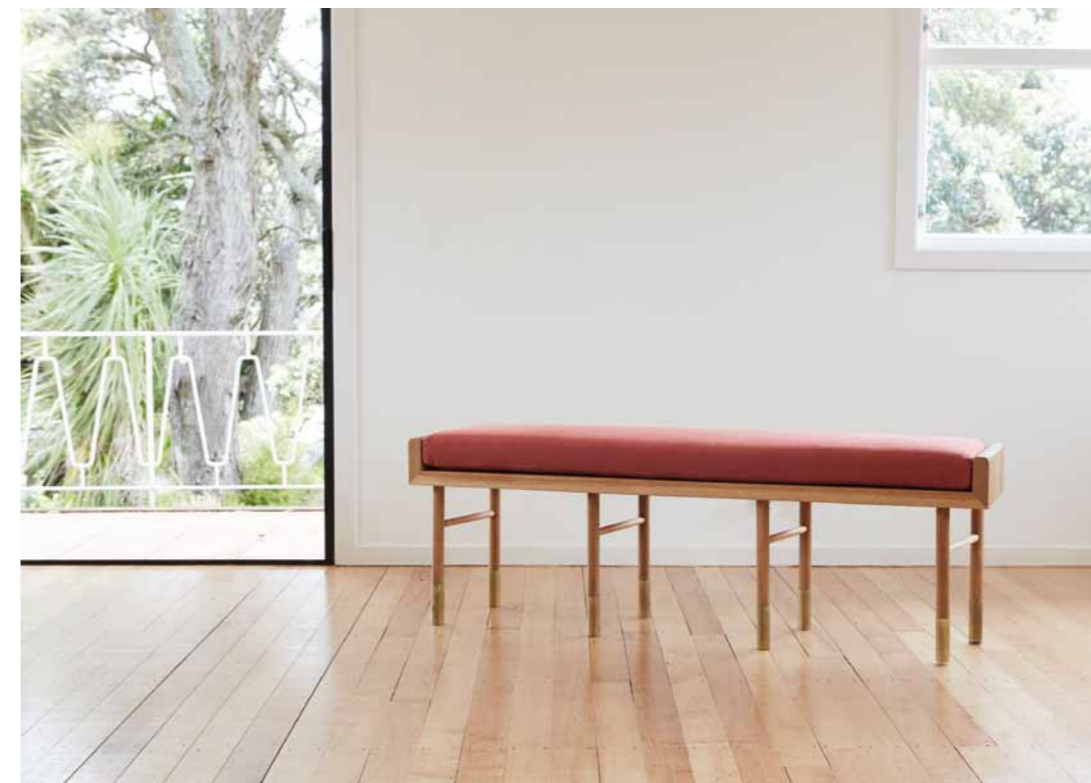
"This was a recommendation from our architect as he was (and still is) worried about our budget," says Rochelle. "I had no idea rammed earth existed until we stumbled across it at the Auckland Home Show last year. After seeing and touching the material, I became a complete convert!"

There have been some sacrifices in meeting the requirements, including Rochelle's dream for a chandelier-lit two-storey entry foyer, which has been downgraded to a (still beautiful) staircase with green wall. They also had to lose their gabled roof as it would cause too much rainwater run-off. This has been replaced with a green roof, which allows for Joel's dream of a roof deck to be achieved.

For the Paynes, this is all worth it for the efficient and sustainable final product, and they are documenting the process to inspire others to do the same.

"There is a perception of it being too hard," says Rochelle. "We want to show that it isn't. And after we have broken the path with Council in terms of the consents, others should have an easier time." All design and documentation is being put on their website for people to download and emulate.

livinghouse.org.nz



Object of Desire

Interior designer Jessica White of Room by Room has created her first collection of locally made and designed furniture, the Aspect series, which includes a stool, bench and shelf made from American oak with what the designer calls "brass slippers". Taking its form from the simplicity and restraint of mid-century furniture, the collection has a quirky element in the angled legs, which tilt to one side to show off their brass feet. The reflective nature of the feet accentuates the lightness of the furniture also. The rounded edges of the Aspect shelf gives a softness and warmth, which is evident in the other pieces too, with their removable cushion.

roombyroom.co/furniture