

Country Circle

Bringing the badlands inside

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The Drumheller Mail

Watch out Ikea, there's funkier home decor making its way into people's homes now.

The love of the historic nature of Drumheller has attracted two Alberta based artists to create products for your home that bring the Badlands inside.

Shoko Cesar and Greg Ball are co-founders of The Industrial Designers of Edmonton Association-IDEA, and partners on many projects in Art and design.

Both trained as Artist's first, now are practicing Industrial Designers in Edmonton's thriving design community.

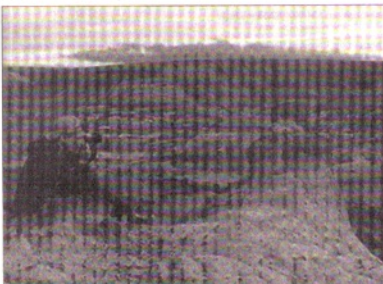
Last year Ball and Cesar began thinking of creating an Alberta inspired line of products.

"We wanted a line of products that were local, and not just typical home products for the global market," says Ball. "We wanted to design products inspired by the prairies of Alberta."

Ball and Cesar began their research in August 2005 with the help of Jim and Tony Wilson who allowed them access to some land within the valley.

After a weekend of taking photos and videos of the valley, Royal Tyrrell Museum and local shops, the pair began designing and prototyping the products.

Among the products are a cast rubber and stainless steel fish bottle opener that is inspired by the giant fish fossils in the Tyrrell museum and a HooDoo inspired floor lamp and rack.



Greg Ball (pictured) and Shoko Cesar hit the badlands in summer of 2005 to begin gathering information for their line of home products inspired by the Drumheller badlands.

photo submitted

Recently a 'tornado' lamp that hangs from the roof is in a current exhibit for the month of January in downtown Edmonton called FROST- contemporary design exhibit.

The products have to be manufactured in small numbers because there is no set manufacturer for everything, but all that comes with time.

"We're looking and hope to find a company interested in manufacturing and selling product," says Ball.

So far the pieces are being sold in three stores in Canada. In Edmonton at Chachkas and Collectiv and even in Vancouver at Small Medium Large but they have had little success when it comes to getting local stores to sell the merchandise.

"We had hoped to get some of the local stores in Drumheller and had little success so far,"



The Hoo Doo inspired floor lamp.

Fish bottle opener that was inspired by the fossils of fish found at the Royal Tyrrell Museum.



says Ball.

Cesar and Ball haven't said goodbye to the Badlands just yet.

"We have been discussing the idea of bringing other artists and designers with us this summer and having a design retreat in the badlands," says Ball. "We think Drumheller has a ton

more to offer, and that we have merely scratched the surface here."

For more information on where to find the products you can contact Greg Ball at (403) 249-1275.