



PROFILE  
**BRODIE NEILL**

*From top: 'Tetra' oak shelving of stacked trapezoids. The graceful biomorphic 'Stem' stool in aluminium. The 'Prism' coffee table explores BRODIE's love of geometry. Moulded Corian forms the sinuous 'Pleat' bench.*



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FOR A DESIGNER OBSESSED with process, and the possibilities of materials, Tasmanian-trained Brodie Neill found handing over a concept to a brand that managed the production a frustrating experience. "I often felt I wasn't part of the ongoing development and I had little opportunity to add value, so I eventually decided to launch my own brand, Made in Ratio, where I control the entire process," says Brodie. This year, Made In Ratio's 'Collection 2' was released, with the number of products growing to 12.

Brodie is based in London, his adopted city, where the dynamic around design matches his own and where he can tap into British manufacturing skills. Having designed pieces for some of Italy's most respected companies such as Kundalini and Riva 1920 in the past, Brodie is totally aware of the rigour required to build a reputation in the world of furniture and lighting. Made in Ratio's products are manufactured wherever the best result can be achieved but British factories, such as one in Southampton which casts metal primarily for the marine industry, are close to his heart.

"They operate a 'closed-loop' technique where recycled aluminium from old window frames comes in and the finished product goes out," says Brodie. "I love working with factories that are so focused on quality and who are also obsessed with the process."

In fact, much of Brodie's inspiration comes from watching and learning how manufacturers work, what their processes are, how materials are treated and, from that point, he creates a new direction or reinterpretation of what is possible. "I am a strong believer in design dialogue, that better solutions come from working together," he says. He acknowledges it is often not the first collaborative piece that is the best, but the second and third, as mutual understanding grows and the possibilities become more apparent.

From his body of work, clear-cut concepts around fluidity and form emerge. "I am drawn to the idea of the continuous loop, the idea of eternity and endless form," says Brodie. "There is no start and no end, as the shape takes your eye on a journey."

He has worked with many materials – molten glass, carbon fibre, plywood and cast metal – each appropriate to a specific design. This latest collection has explored the properties of PET felt in a neat, triangular stacking stool called 'Pik', alongside a ribbon-like bar stool in recycled aluminium and a refined, sculptural bench called 'Pleat' in moulded Corian.

"Made in Ratio stands for everything in perfect proportion, perfectly balanced and with material refinement, so as not to overuse resources and to be respectful of the environment," says Brodie. Each and every product lives up to his self-imposed standards. As the collection grows, the brand is gaining attention, not just for the beautiful shapes Brodie brings to everything he designs, but also for the integrity behind them.



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