



INNOVATION

The Alchemist at Work: Objects at Rest and in Motion

Dror Benshetrit (above left and bottom left) operates a studio in the meatpacking district that sits below the Yigal Azrouël Boutique, for which he did the interiors, above. It was the first such project for Mr. Benshetrit, a native of Israel and a recent graduate of the Design Academy Eindhoven in the Netherlands. "Most of my work has something to do with movement," he said. "Often it adjusts or transforms." The Pick chair (below, on the left) hangs on the wall until it is folded into a chair, which can hold 350 pounds. The secret is the fabric — the same as in bulletproof vests — which runs the length of the chair sandwiched between two layers of wood. A limited edition will be ready in

about a month and will sell for \$1,000 each. The F chair (below right) takes its name from its shape when opened.

The prototype of his hourglass lamp (left) is filled with acetone heated by a bulb underneath. (A less volatile liquid is being sought.) As the acetone warms, it flows from bottom to top; when the top is heavy enough, it flips over to start again. Mathmos, the maker of the Lava lamp, is interested in the design. Mr. Benshetrit, 26, is also working on a store for Kiehls, in Miami, and a wireless, remote-control mouse that is held in the palm of the hand and operated by drawing with the thumb. He is now in Tokyo, demonstrating his creations at Designers Block, a trade fair. Studio Dror can be reached at (212) 929-2196 or www.studiodror.com.

STEPHEN TREFFINGER

