



**THICK SKIN:** Julia Lohmann's Cowbench (2005, *Anoushka in Tokyo*, pictured) are made of leather, hand-sculpted foam and wood, using one cowhide per Cowbench, placed exactly as it was on the living animal, spine on spine  
*Photography* STUDIO BEC



**Good Life** exhibition at Pier 40 in New York this September. "We aim to create objects that have a certain beauty or graphic quality and can demonstrate artistic ideas in architecture," says Huneck.

In 2004, the pair collaborated with artist and professor Ottmar Hörl on a large-scale installation of 7,000 plastic hares in Nuremberg's central square, which coincided with the 500th anniversary of native artist Albrecht Dürer's classic piece, "A Young Hare." Further referencing another Dürer work, "A Large Patch of Grass," Osa's large "field" of green hares served as a 3-D interactive homage, turning the city's square into a virtual park.

**2 Julia Lohmann, UK** London-based designer Julia Lohmann explores human dependence on animals in her work, which is situated at the crossroads of fine art and product design. Her translucent lamps, Flock and Ruminant Bloom, wow viewers with their sheer blossom-like beauty – until you discover the material they are made from: preserved sheep stomachs. Lohmann's cow benches, each made of hand-sculpted foam covered with the hide from a single animal, have a similar effect;

their natural shapes and headless bodies are simultaneously alluring and appalling. Although the benches were primarily shown in exhibition environments, Lohmann brought them onto the streets of London and Tokyo to test public reaction. She says, "People later go back home to their own leather sofa and see it with new eyes."

**4 Antenna, NYC** The dynamics of urban interactions inspired *Pattern Recognition*, the latest work from Antenna designers Masamichi Udagawa and Sigi Moeslinger. Shown at New York's Frederieke Taylor Gallery, *Pattern* is a series of humorous proposals for improvements to city life that play off of everyday objects and encounters. Antenna's Shrink bench offers a therapeutic setting where strangers can discuss their problems; their Traffic lights provide an exercise sequence for restless pedestrians waiting to cross the street. Best known for their design of NYC subway cars and vending machines, Antenna has extensive experience working with public space. "It's a continuous theater where everyone is either an actor or an audience," explains Moeslinger. "We're interested in inserting ourselves onto this stage through our designs and introducing a new experience in that environment." **EJ**