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## No° 0094: John Housmand's Low Table

Posted July 31st, 2009 by Jenny Rector

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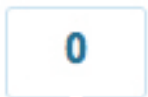
No° 0094 Low Table. Designed by John Housmand.



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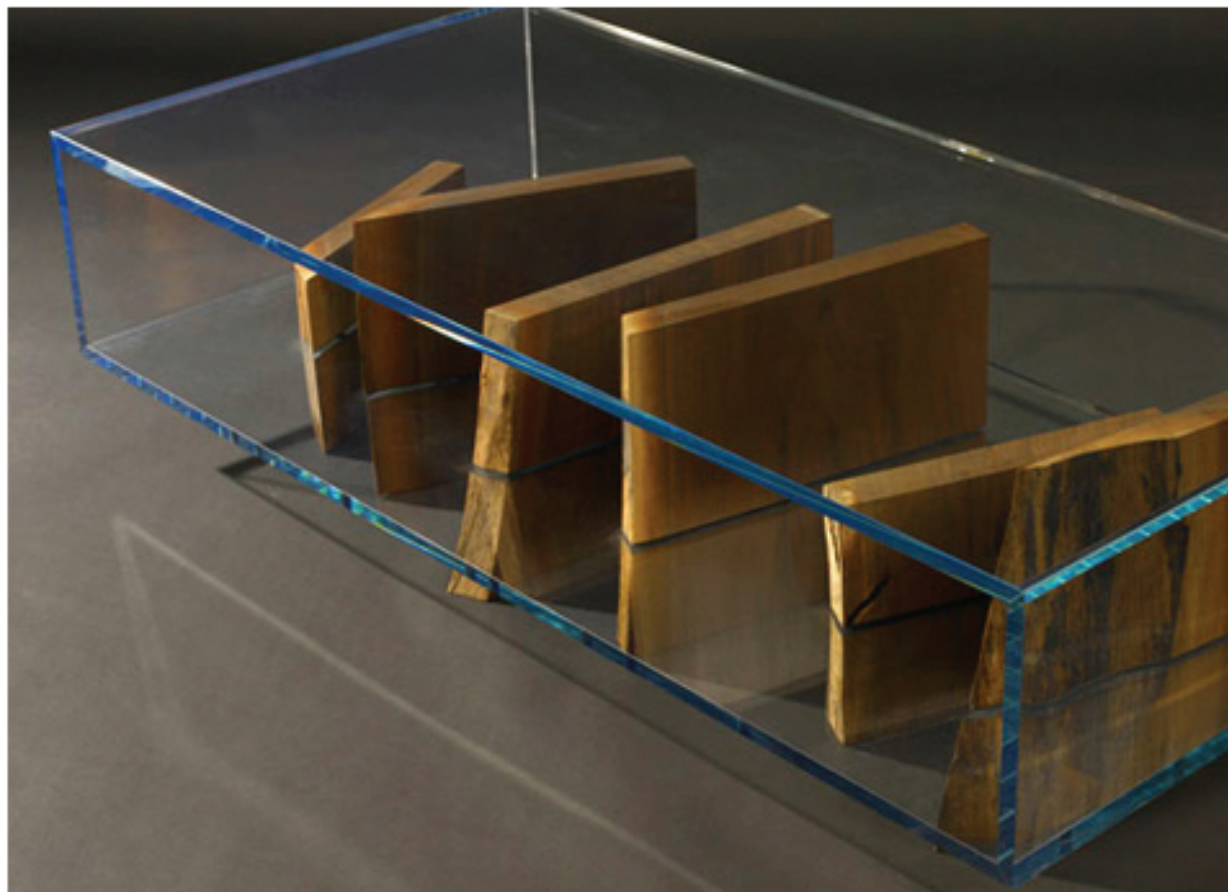
"We allow grains to spill. We love crumbling  
back. We welcome wormholes." John



"We allow grains to spill. We love crumbling bark. We welcome wormholes." John

Houshmand's collection aims to show what wood really looks like. After 25 years as a co-partner in a preeminent NYC-based contracting firm, Houshmand bought a saw-mill and spent his weekends there designing and crafting. He quit his job, transformed his Soho loft into a showroom and relocated to a 900-acre property in upstate New York, where he creates his furniture today. In his own words, the Yale-educated contractor-sculptor-musician "just sort of ran with it."

Simultaneously rustic and polished; at first glance it seems like a sculpture contained within a display case. Imperfect planes of wood are juxtaposed against the rectangular polyhedron: a clear glass box with sharp corners. On his website, Houshmand explains that he is "challenging the division between fine and functional arts." The low table, No° 0094, is part of Collection 03: a starfire open glass box with black walnut slabs. The slabs, of varying heights, puncture through the glass bottom. Also check out Houshmand's chaise lounge: a fluid form of bronze atop an old-growth heart-pine beam.

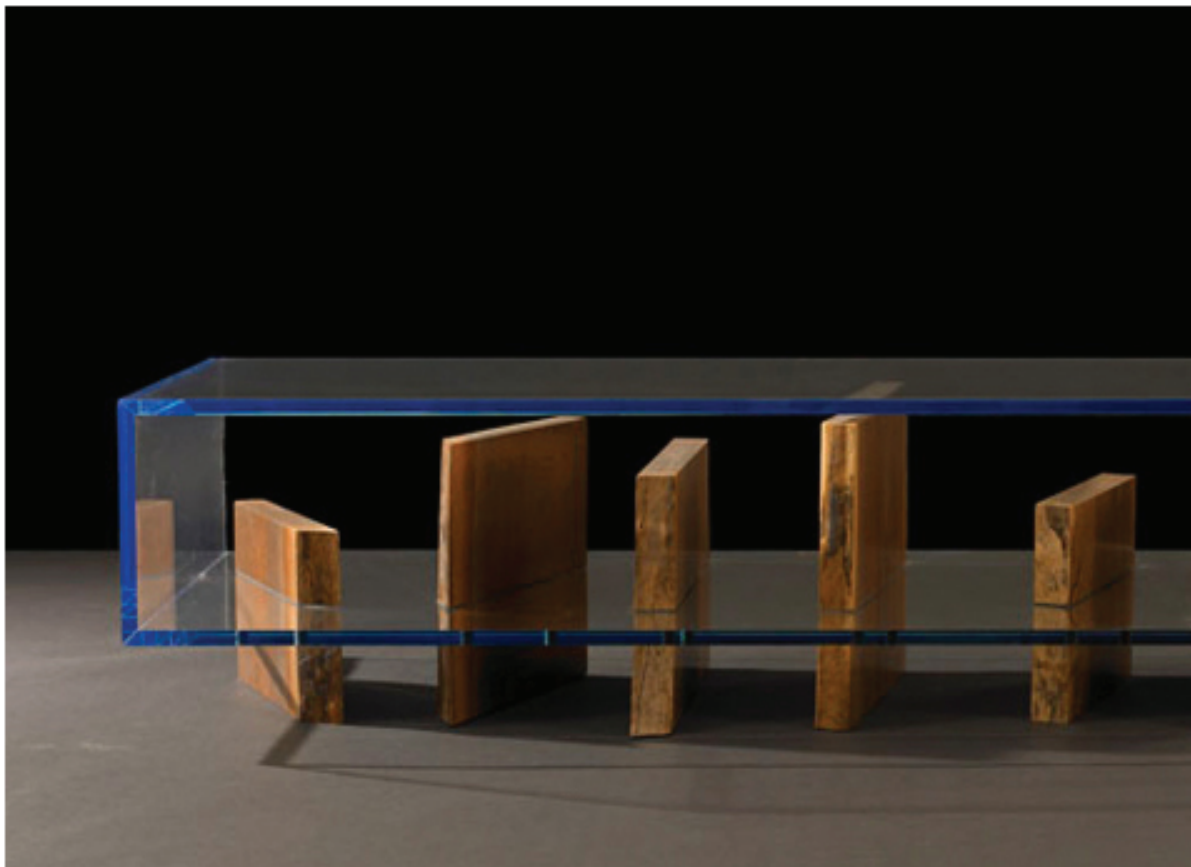


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Houshmand uses only salvaged American hardwood in his designs – and he doesn't seek out "flawless" pieces. Trees whose lifespan has ended, and those not straight enough for mass producers are saved from a future as firewood. His projects, ranging from residential to commercial and hospitality, have included the outfitting of Robert de Niro's Greenwich Hotel in New York, complete furnishings for a house in Mexico, and installations in office buildings. Regardless of the location or application, Houshmand's philosophy remains the same: "We allow trees to do the talking. We simply listen." Old and new; modern and traditional; natural and man-made: each of Houshmand's designs is truly one-of-a-kind.



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