

## The new *My Uncle* furniture range

By Domeau & Pérès

For over eight years now, Domeau & Pérès has been working on furniture design projects in close collaboration with designers themselves, placing the company at the heart of the creative process. Bruno Domeau and Philippe Pérès, whose own backgrounds are in the traditional crafts of saddlery and upholstery, have built up an outstanding catalogue featuring the finest in contemporary furniture, including designs by Andrée Putman, Christophe Pillet, Matali Crasset, and Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec. They are proud of their reputation for furniture made in the finest craft tradition. Domeau & Pérès have been invited to apply their expertise to a number of private commissions, producing furniture for a range of styles of interior design or even for the airline and automobile industries, where their designs become part of the brand identity.

The story behind the company's latest designs began in 2002, when the theatre directors Macha Makeïeff and Jérôme Deschamps invited Domeau & Pérès to work on the exceptional re-issue of a small line of furniture designs from the Jacques Tati film *My Uncle*, a remarkable, visionary film dating from 1958 that has become a cult classic. Makeïeff and Deschamps, best known for their work with the Deschiens comedy team, are also co-directors, along with Sophie Tatischeff, of *Les Films de Mon Oncle*, an organisation set up in 2001 to make Jacques Tati's films available to a wider public.

Domeau & Pérès have long been admirers of the film *My Uncle* and in particular its remarkable visual aesthetics. Makeïeff and Deschamps draw on the DVD to highlight Tati's astonishing foresights into the nature of modernity. The project to re-issue a range of furniture designs was thus the perfect way to represent Tati's own distinctive genius while opening up unexplored possibilities in furniture design. As Bruno Domeau and Philippe Pérès point out, "From the fabulous Arpel family home, we chose the kidney-shaped sofa, the sofa with green tubes, and Monsieur Arpel's yellow chair, because we felt that they were almost actors in their own right. The scenes they feature in could probably not have been shot without them. Likewise, we were struck by the resemblance between the kidney-shaped sofa and Perriand and Le Corbusier's chaise longue and, more generally, the Villa Arpel and the designs by Robert Mallet-Stevens and other modernist architects of the same period. This gave us the inspiration we needed to set to work reproducing these highly symbolic pieces".

Unfortunately, none of the original pieces from the film – or even sketches by Jacques Tati's long-time set designer Jacques Lagrange – survive. Domeau & Pérès based their work

on stills from the film as the only way of reproducing the original 1958 designs. It took a great many prototypes to reproduce a design as close as possible to the originals while maintaining the correct proportions and the highest standards of quality and comfort. These are not just museum showpieces: each item of furniture in the *Mon Oncle* range – produced in a limited edition of eight individually numbered pieces – is designed, like all of Domeau & Pérès' furniture, for daily use. Almost fifty years after *My Uncle* first hit the silver screen, Domeau & Pérès invites you to come and re-live the Tati lifestyle!

Preview of the furniture

Tuesday, 13 December, from 7 p.m. onwards. By invitation only.

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