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## POSTFOSSIL

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A 10-person Swiss design collective congealed around the question of humanity's post-fossil fuel future as Postfossil in 2007. Postfossil's first presentation at the 2008 Milan furniture fair offered 10 designs intended to heat up the debate about how to cope with a precipitously cooling relationship with our natural resources. The pieces remind us that the smallest efforts (even being willing to give the problem a little thought on a daily basis) can produce big results.

Anna Blattert and Daniel Gafner's chamfered steel and hand-blown glass First Light prototype is a retro-futuristic floor lamp powered, like clockworks, by a weight and cog wheels. No need to connect to a wall outlet; it generates its own electricity while users watch their very own power utility at work through the glass shade.

Christine Birkhoven's candleholder-shaped bedside lamp, Good Night Eileen, charges its low-energy LED on a flat charging station through magnetic induction and then glows for several minutes before fading, eliminating the need to switch lights on and off as one pads down the hall to kitchen or bath during the wee hours.

The sports furniture collection by Florian Hauswirth and Thomas Walde can be used to work out in – and handsomely furnish – the home. The pull-up bar doubles as a garment rack, the felt and leather stretching mat serves as a carpet and the bench can be used for doing sit ups. Best of all, the designers built the set to outlive its (admittedly healthy) user.

A gold pendant necklace by Anna Blattert and Claudia Heiniger holds a glass amulet filled with oil. Usually considered a valuable commodity only in the abstract (and often not considered much at all in the developed world), now that the West must pay dearly to fill gas tanks and transport tomatoes, this design may at last put crude oil – and human priorities – in their proper place.



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Anna Blattert, Daniel Gafner

1 **First Light**

This reading lamp is powered through a weight and cog wheels just like clockworks. The power does not come from the socket but is produced directly in the body of the object. Through the glass lampshade the movement of the cog wheels is visible.

Die Seiner/Florian Hauswirth & Thomas Walde

2 **Sports Furniture**

The sports furniture collection is primarily intended to maintain physical fitness at home but is simultaneously a furniture collection that easily blends into the living space. The clothing rack is also a pull-up bar. The stretching mat serves as a carpet. The collection also includes a bench, skipping rope and cup.

Michael Niederberger

3 **Branch Series**

Branch Series is composed of connecting elements such as tree branches that bring nature indoors in the form of a table, chair, stool or coffee table. The series also includes a small candle attachment which throws bundled light onto the table through the aid of a parabolic reflector and a glass lens.

Corina Zuberbuehler

4,5 **THESPILL bench**

A reconfigurable seating element with integrated cushions, wall covering and rug that resemble an oil spill when put together.

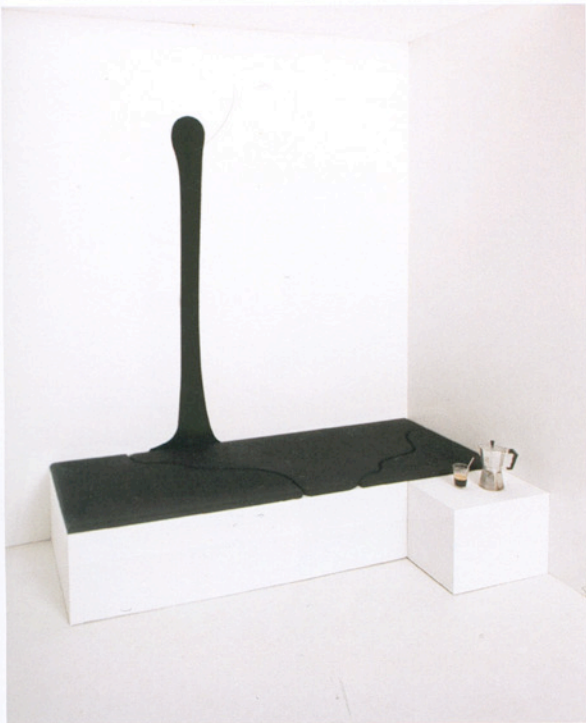
Christine Birkhoven

6 **Good Night Eileen lamp**

Like an old-fashioned hand torch, this porcelain light allows users to avoid turning lights on and off as they move through a darkened house and is recharged on a charging base through magnetic induction.



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