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## SIMON O'DRISCOLL

*Furniture Designer,*  
*O'Driscoll Furniture Design*

There is a desire to soften furniture by the use of printed fabrics, which will carry through into wallpapers and flooring – parquet flooring is making a big comeback. One of the great exponents of this aesthetic is Marcel Wanders of Moooi, who continues to push the boundaries of how we look at furniture. The furniture is sculptural, playful and yet practical. Post-war design furniture of Charles & Ray Eames, Hans Wegner and Arne Jacobsen will play a part in blurring the lines between what is seen as good and bad design. Again, Marcel Wanders is one to watch out for in 2007. His large contemporary triple-seater Bottoni sofa is covered in printed fabric of a distant era, but we now want to have it in our new spaces. Works by living artists will be more sought after as it will suit bold and modern spaces – video and photography installations by these artists will feature more strongly. The growing impact and influence of works by leading architects like Norman Foster's "Gherkin", London, Rem Koolhaas's Concert Hall, Portugal, the Olympic Stadium, Beijing and closer to home, the new U2 Tower; all these stylish buildings continue to push the boundaries of architecture.