

KEM STUDIO launches Skate Bench No.1 on Kickstarter

KANSAS CITY, MO. - September 20, 2011 - Kansas City architecture + design firm KEM STUDIO has designed a skateboard deck inspired bench with an original frame and skateboard deck graphics by Hammerpress. The bench has received local and national interest but, until recently, has only existed in prototype form and made as a "one off" for the Kansas City Art Institute's Art and Design Auction to benefit student scholarships. KEM STUDIO has since launched Skate Bench on Kickstarter, the largest internet funding platform for creative projects in the world, to be able to produce the bench at a friendlier consumer price and make it available for the masses.

Skate Bench No.1 is influenced by the mixture of skateboard culture and mid-century modern furniture. It incorporates a continuously bent stainless steel and powder coated frame with integrated hardware. It is designed around the standard bent plywood skateboard deck. KEM STUDIO Principal Jonathan Kemnitzer says the idea for the bench originated while the firm principals were talking about the inherent beauty of skateboard decks and the potential to design a modern object that exists in a home, office or a skaters pad.

"The screen prints on the bottom side of a skateboard deck are graphically amazing and the urethaned wood top has strong references to the Eames molded plywood chair series." says Kemnitzer. "Once we started, we really had fun playing with both sides of the skateboard deck and incorporating it with a complex, yet simple, single bent rod of steel for the base frame," Kemnitzer adds.

About 80% of all skateboard decks sold have the same hole location, allowing the user to use a past deck to show off how much it's been thrashed, capture some memories, or to pick a new deck with their graphic of choice. Either way, this was designed to be cool, fun and certainly have an attitude. One SKATE BENCH No.1 Kickstarter Backer commented, "Simplicity at its finest. Skater or not, this is dope."

Skate Bench No.1 has been published in the design book "1,000 Product Designs" and is now available for sale for a limited time through Kickstarter. Individuals become "backers" of the project by pledging money through pre-sales of the bench. Frames and custom decks can be bought individually or as a complete set. Costs range from \$55-\$195 respectively, with a limited edition model available for \$500. For more information about Skate Bench on Kickstarter, visit <http://www.kickstarter.com/projects/529441984/skate-bench-no1>

About KEM STUDIO: <http://www.kemstudio.com>

KEM STUDIO is a design firm fusing architecture and industrial design. The firm was founded and is guided by the fundamental principle that we can make life better through design.

About Kickstarter: <http://kickstarter.com>

Kickstarter is the largest funding platform for creative projects in the world. Every week, tens of thousands of amazing people pledge millions of dollars to projects from the worlds of music, film, art, technology, design, food, publishing and other creative fields. Kickstarter is powered by a unique all-or-nothing funding method where projects must be fully-funded or no money changes hands.



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Additional links:

Hammer Press <http://www.hammerpress.net>

Skate Bench on KEM STUDIO's website <http://www.kemstudio.com/project/skate-bench/>

Skate Bench on Kickstarter <http://www.kickstarter.com/projects/529441984/skate-bench-no1>

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