

The International Design Magazine *2005 Annual Design Review* featuring 150 winners

July/August 2005 / \$30 US/\$42 CAN

I.D.

## 51st Annual Design Review

Consumer Products

Graphics

Packaging

Environments

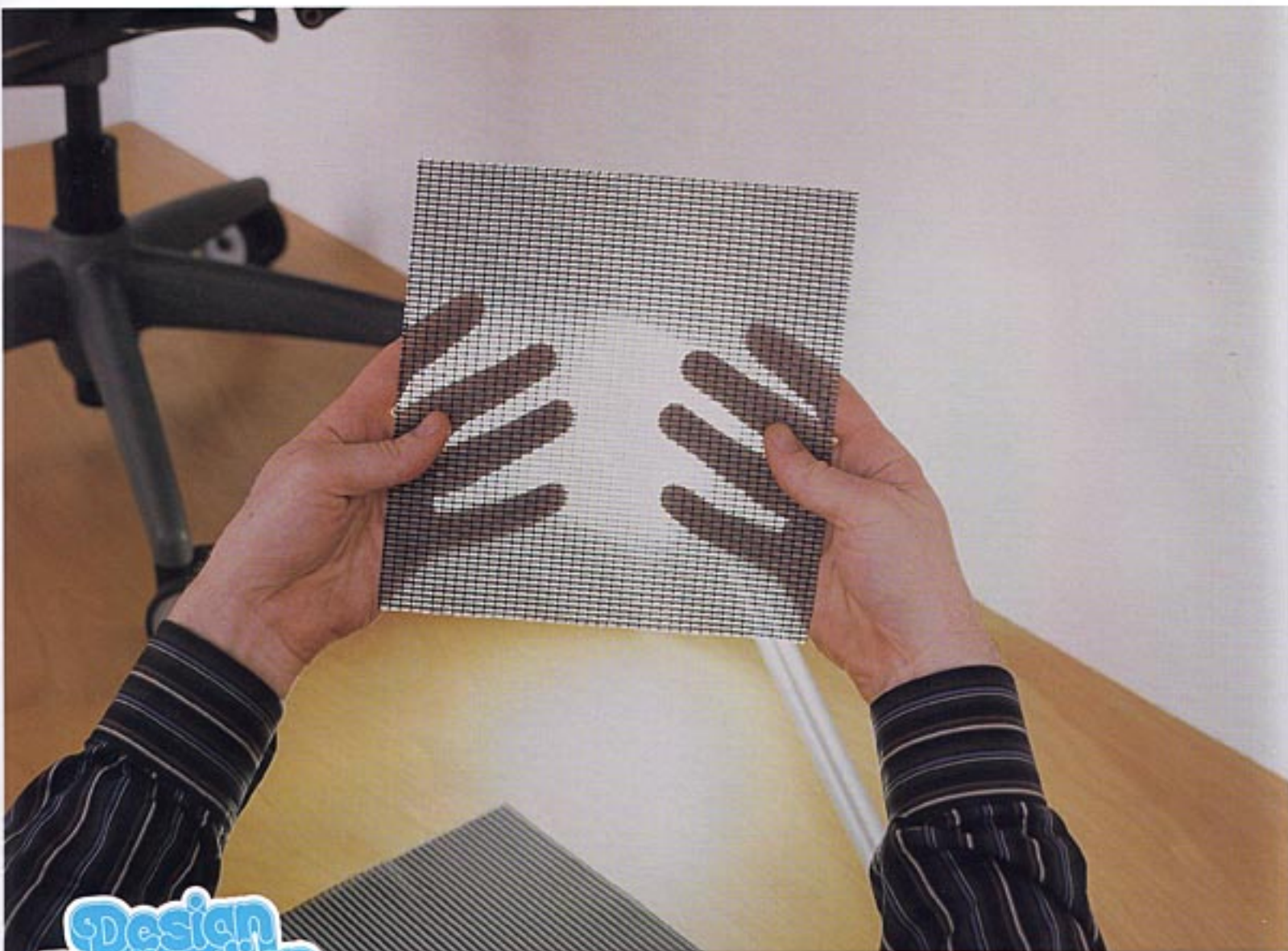
Furniture

Equipment

Concepts

Interactive





Design  
Distinction

## Luminesce

Textile designer Elizabeth Whelan wove Luminesce for Humanscale's Liberty chair (another Design Distinction winner, see page 136), after experimenting with two dozen hand-loomed sketches in nylon and polyester monofilaments. The mixtures chosen for production are shot through with copper wire and silver-plated yarn, though along the way Whelan toyed with paper, wool, leather, plastic, and some urethane made for BMW motorcycle clothing. Luminesce stretches less than 5 percent, while nonabrasively and diaphanously ventilating sitters' backs and rejecting most dirt. "It's luxurious in its plasticity," Boerner said. Humanscale now hopes to apply the fabrics beyond Liberty, to upholstery, partitions, and window treatments (\$60-\$70 per yard). "It's so difficult to get this much structure out of such thin, translucent material, to create something that's hard but doesn't feel that way," Somerson said. "You could make jewelry out of it." McFadden promptly tried on the copper swatch as a glittering cuff.

**Design** Elizabeth Whelan, principal, Elizabeth Whelan Design (New York)  
**Client** Humanscale (New York)  
**Materials** Polyester; nylon; silver-plated yarn; copper wire; paper  
**Software** Pointcarre