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Bellini Chairs Featured in New York Exhibit

The installation is the conclusion of a semester-long course completed by BFA Illustration students.

BY NICHOLAS TAMARIN

INTERIOR DESIGN · JANUARY 2, 2008



Through January 31, an installation of furniture manufacturer [Heller's](#) iconic Bellini chairs is on view at [Design Within Reach's](#) New York flagship. "Re-Imagining the Chair" is the result of a semester-long project completed by



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[Fluff chair](#) is New York design. Re-imagining the chair is the result of a semester-long project completed by 16 students from [Parsons the New School for Design](#).

Students in the **Parsons** BFA Illustration "Beyond Editorial" course taught by alumna Kenna Kay were asked to reexamine Mario Bellini's classic chair design. Using diverse media, each student transformed a chair into a one-off piece.

The results were then judged by design historian Mel Byars, DWR chief creative officer Jennifer Morla, textile designer Sandy Chilewich, and the manufacturer of the chair, Alan Heller.

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Sari Widman won first prize for her Fluff chair, which encapsulates a Bellini chair in wire, fabric, and cotton. "I have a bit of a fantasy of being hugged and carried around by a huge, fluffy white monster when I get stressed out or tired," says Widman. "I wanted to make a chair that would feel like that, and also the opportunity to build something because I draw all the time but rarely get to work in three dimensions." Other winning designs include See no Sit by Chris Yip and This is Where by Christina Young.

Design Within Reach is located at 408 West 14th Street in New York's Meatpacking District.

From top: A view of the installation including Sari Widman's first-prize winner, Fluff, at back left. Chris Yip's See no Sit. Images courtesy of Michael DiVito

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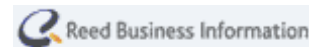
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