

The architecture of Chandigarh's modernist buildings is translated into the legs of the 'X+L' coffee table and the partition screen by Xander Vervoort and Leon van Boxtel

< Phantom Hands, Bengaluru

"Many cane weavers in Bengaluru have moved on and become autorickshaw drivers because they could not find enough work to sustain them," says Deepak Srinath, founder of Phantom Hands, an artisans' collective comprising woodworkers from Rajasthan, cane weavers from Tamil Nadu and upholsterers and polishers from Uttar Pradesh. While Phantom Hands started out working with a single family of cane weavers from Karaikudi, some time ago, Srinath and team started an apprentice programme to train young men and women from Bengaluru in the craft of cane weaving. They steer design innovations by regularly collaborating with designers from different parts of the world. "We have had contemporary designers from Sweden, Japan and Italy coming over and engaging with the artisans," says Srinath. "When they are part of these processes, the artisans are required to think and innovate in ways that they had traditionally not done before. It is utterly beautiful to see how things take shape at such times." ■