

**StudioM3 presents USM Haller Re-Framed:
New furniture does not always have to be brand new.**

How did the idea of using USM Haller benches for the Designers Saturday Re-Purposed arena come about?

"When I started StudioM3 15 years ago, I acquired all the old USM Haller filing cabinets from Kredittkassen's head office in Majorstua in Oslo. It was a whole 4 floor building of old cabinets and we spent 3 months demounting them into single pieces to store and later re-configure at our combined workshop and showroom. The furniture had clear signs of wear and tear after many years of use but were still fully functional and compatible with new parts. I have since built thousands of bespoke USM furniture from these parts. That was the beginning of the idea for Designers Saturday - to give them a completely new life. The USM Haller system is built on creativity and redesign, so for this project I wanted to challenge the designers to freely redefine the furniture—from a filing cabinet into a bench adding new types of materials and only using reused, upcycled or surplus parts they had to source themselves»

How do you connect the project to this year's theme, "Repurpose?"

"Repurpose is about seeing the potential in what already exists and giving it a new function. That's exactly what we're doing here—we're taking an old piece of furniture and letting designers create something completely new from it."

Which designers are involved?

"We wanted benches with personality and encouraged experimentation with materials and expressions. That's why we invited a diverse group of designers—both established names and new talents. We know some of them well, while we've been following others because they do exciting work. We also have two of our own designers from StudioM3 participating."

The contributors are in alphabetical order:

Bård Arnesen,
Bjarte Sandal,
Hunting & Narud,
Josefin Johansson,
Kjetil Smedal,
Lloyd Winter,
Marianne Skarbøvik,
Michael Poy,
Martin A. Andersen,
Stian Korntved Ruud.

What do you want the audience to be left with?

"First and foremost, inspiration. We want people to see new possibilities in reuse and up cycling and maybe get some ideas they can take home with them. Not everything has to become a small works of Art, but could be a surprising, fun, or clever solution that shows how an old piece of furniture can get a new life. It can be as simple as repainting it, swapping out a panel, or giving it a new function. And with that, you often get a great story as a bonus.»

Project Page:

- <https://studiom3.no/pages/usm-re-framed>

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- studiom3.no
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