

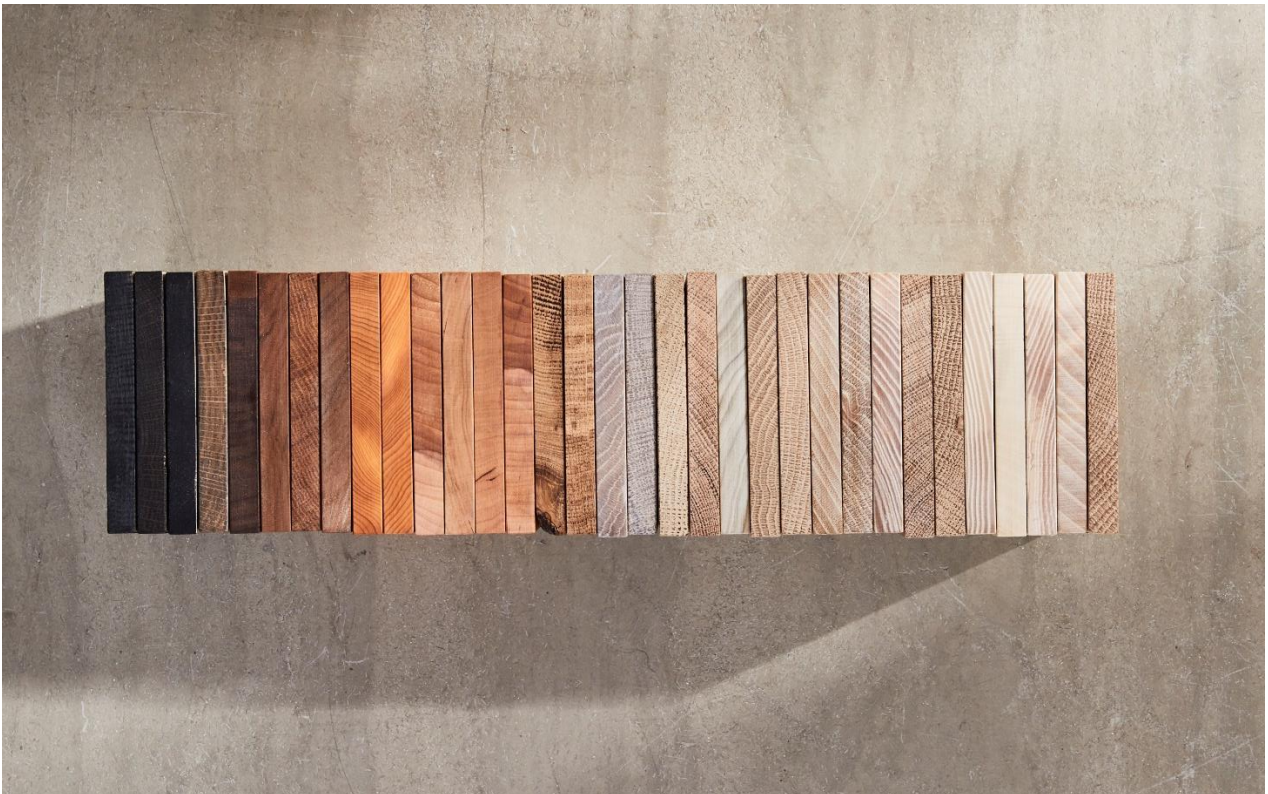
BENCHMARK

Benchmark at Clerkenwell Design Week 2025

Devotion to Wood

At this year's Clerkenwell Design Week, Benchmark is proud to present a collection of furniture that reflects our deep commitment to solid wood.

Solid timber lies at the heart of our making philosophy—not only for its natural beauty and tactility, but for the environmental and practical benefits it brings. Solid hardwoods are inherently durable, will age gracefully and last for generations. Solid timber can be easily repaired, refinished, and repurposed time and again, making it perfectly suited to circular design thinking. By working with solid timber, Benchmark ensures that every piece carries the potential for multiple lives, reducing waste and extending value over time.



The exhibition shines a spotlight on a selection of underutilised timbers, each with unique qualities and stories that deserve greater recognition. Through form, finish, and thoughtful design, we will demonstrate the aesthetic breadth that wood can offer, encouraging designers to think beyond the familiar when specifying interiors.

From **British Ash**, a species under threat from ash dieback yet celebrated for its strength, resilience and character, to **Brown Oak**, naturally transformed native oak coloured by fungus, these timbers offer richness and character shaped by nature. We also champion English **Sycamore**, an abundant and adaptable hardwood that remains underappreciated in the UK despite its pale elegance and smooth silky grain.



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American Cherry, growing more than twice as fast as it is harvested, offers warmth, depth, and a refined grain, yet remains an underused gem. And **American Red Oak**, one of the most plentiful hardwoods in the U.S., is still widely overlooked despite its beauty, versatility, and strong sustainability credentials.

By choosing what nature readily provides—rather than what convention dictates—we advocate for a richer, more responsible material palette that celebrates diversity, circularity, and craft.

Pieces on display include new designs:

Aiven Table - *designed by Benchmark*

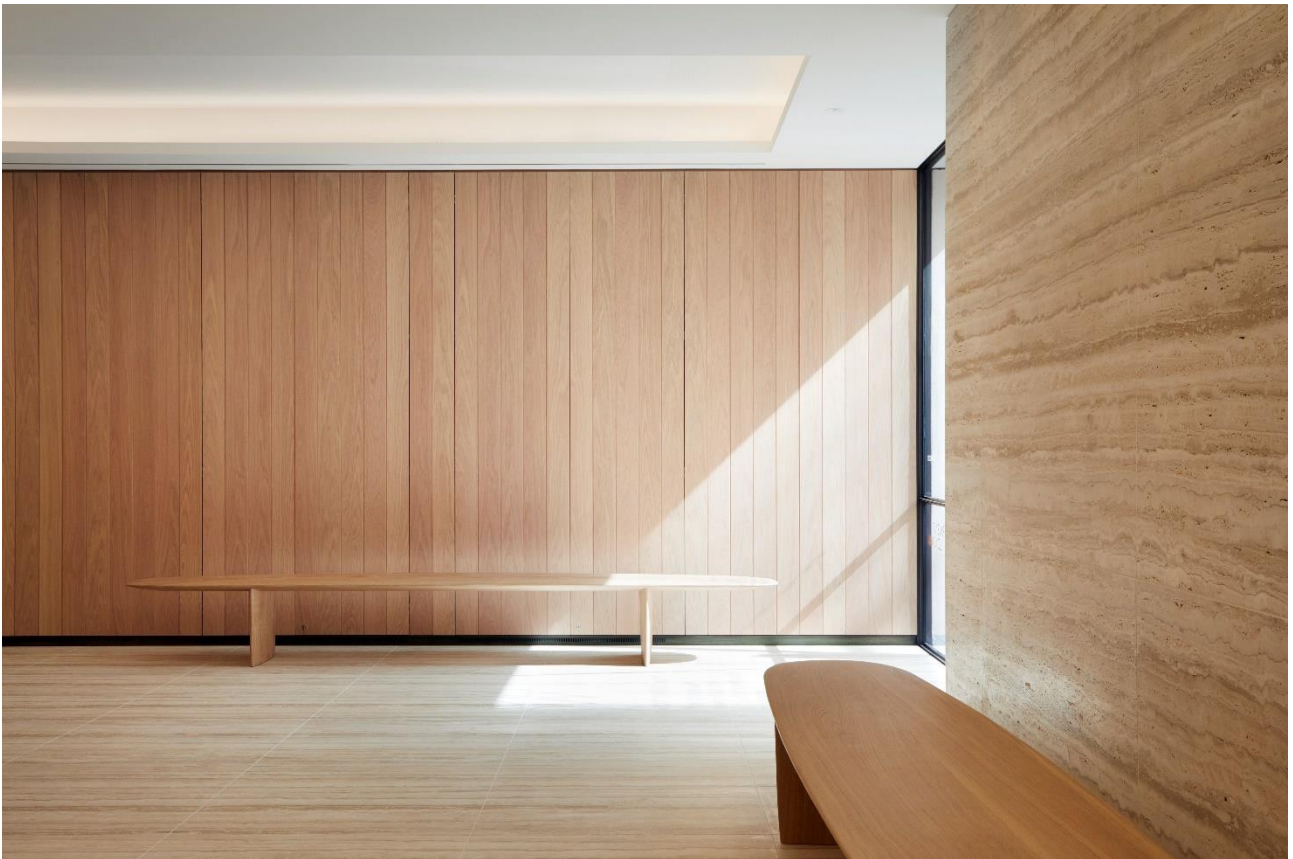
Combining a sleek, elegant form with intelligent power and cable management, Aiven, shown in English sycamore, has a refined profile with softly sculpted corners and legs positioned at each corner to allow tables to be placed end-to-end, providing flexibility of use.

AYA Planter - *designed by Foster + Partners*

A fresh take on modular storage and spatial division, the AYA planter, shown in British Ash, is designed to be placed at the end of desks or centrally in a room.

Silver Bench - *designed by Ian McChesney*

Originally commissioned by Simon Silver for Derwent London's Savile Row HQ and a winner of a Wood Award in 2018, this bench shown in European oak, is newly available to meet demand for bold, sculptural pieces in reception spaces, galleries, and foyers.



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As with all Benchmark's designs, these pieces are launched with a **Lifetime Warranty and Repair Promise**, and made from **solid timber finished with natural oils** - for ease of refurbishment further enabling multiple lives.

ENDS

Notes for editors

For more information about Benchmark's collection or circular approach, or to request high-res images, please contact press@benchmarkfurniture.com

View our Devotion to WOOD exhibition at:

The British Collection
St James' Crypt
Clerkenwell Green
London EC1R 0EA

Opening times

20 May: 10am – 6pm

21 May: 10am – 9pm

22 May: 10am – 5pm

Benchmark

A powerhouse of craft, Benchmark is one of the UK's leading furniture-makers. Founded by Terence Conran and Sean Sutcliffe in 1984, the company has a mission to minimise impact, creating furniture and joinery with longevity, that contributes to human health and wellbeing, using natural, sustainable and non-toxic materials.

With workshops in Berkshire and Dorset, Benchmark works with many of the world's leading architects and designers on commercial and residential projects. Recently awarded the Kings' Award for Enterprise in Sustainable Development, Benchmark is positioned as a leader in sustainable enterprise. Its approach marries forward-thinking design with the highest levels of craftsmanship and creativity, producing furniture with natural warmth and soul.

benchmarkfurniture.com
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