

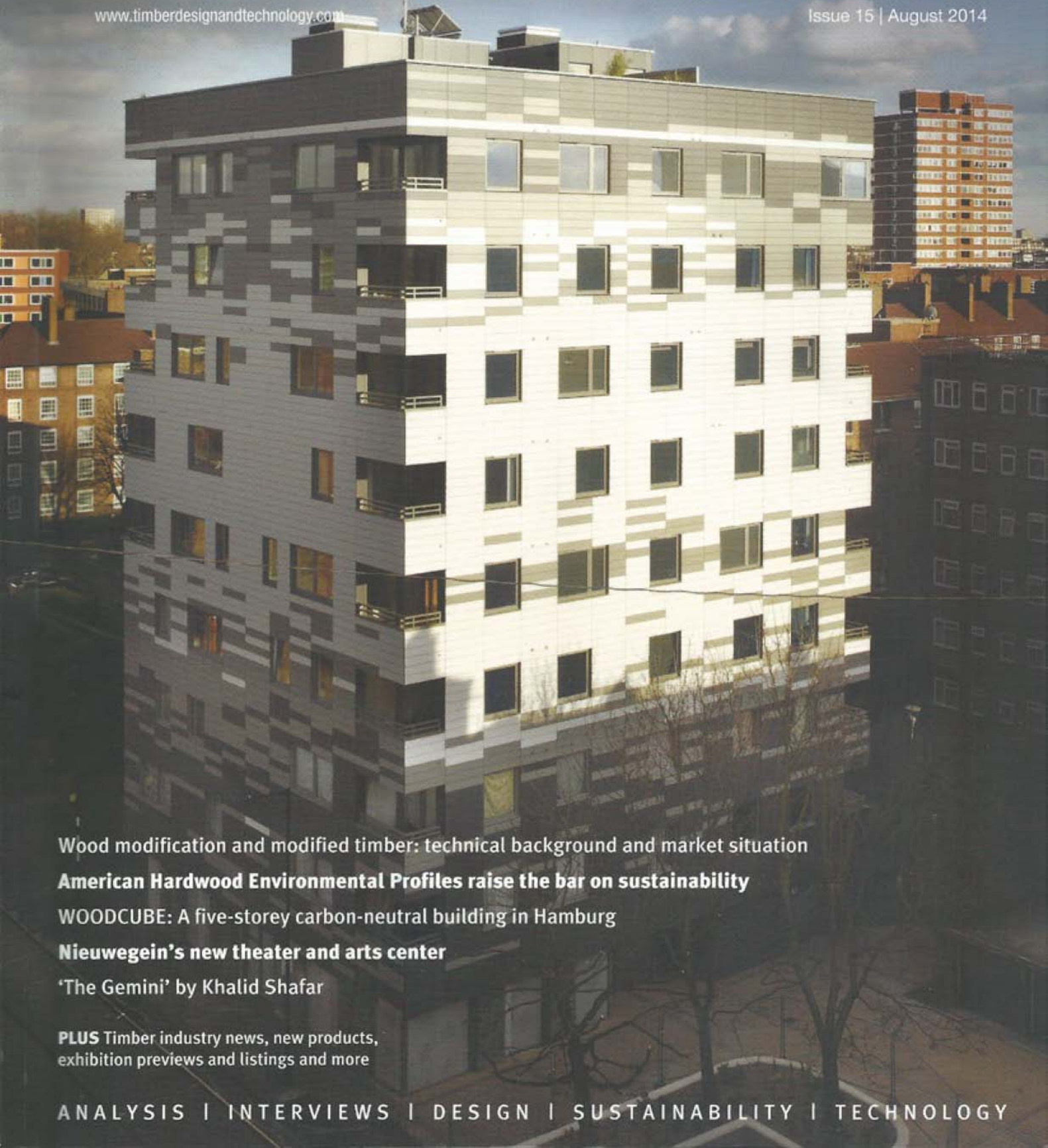
# TIMBER

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# 'The Gemini' by Khalid Shafar



Image © Khalid Shafar

While Dubai continues to be a healthy consumer of high-end design, the city can still only claim a few homegrown designers of its own. Leading the pack is the Emirati object and furniture designer, Khalid Shafar. As a business graduate of the American University in Dubai, Khalid worked in marketing and communication for almost seven years. In 2005, Khalid completed a degree in Fine Arts in Interior Design and by the end of 2009 had decided to leave marketing and follow his passion for design. Since then, he has studied and specialized in Furniture & Objects design, first at Central Saint

Martins College of Art and Design in London, UK, and then at the Centre for Fine Woodworking in Nelson, New Zealand.

In 2011 Khalid opened his own studio in Dubai and in November 2012, he inaugurated his first showcase space 'KASA'. Khalid's approach to design encompasses his personal expression of form, movement, emotion, and in particular, 'the tale' of objects. According to Shafar, simple lines mixed with rich details and fine materials are the hallmarks of a Khalid Shafar object. It is a revival of the 50s, 60s, and 70s avant-garde sleek styling re-

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interpreted with today's furnishing trends.

Explaining the concept behind The Gemini, Shafar says: "When I first learned about the signs of the zodiac I realized I was sharing my life with two Gemini's - my two sisters. Both with the same sign, yet two very different personalities. One sister is outgoing, loud and strong. The other is shy, quiet and calm. I wondered how two people with the same star sign could be so different. Then I realized, these are two sides of the same coin."

According to Shafar, the inspiration for The Gemini came from his childhood home. Combining two functions in the same object - a chair and a table in one - the design mixes bold, edgy, sharp structural lines with soft elegant materials. The Elm timber and sleek fur seat back not only give the object a linear, seamless styling, they also endower it with an animalistic vitality. The zebra lines of the timber and the dark brown fur conjure the animals of the African savannah. Designed for a lounge or as a cafe chair, the Gemini is a solution for confined interior spaces. It has usability and reusability. The transformation from chair to table is as simple as flipping a coin, explains Shafar.


A fan of timber, Shafar says: "It is true to say that I feel like I have an affinity with timber, even if I do come from a place with more desert sand than trees! As a medium, it has a reaction from the moment you cut it. When I finish the piece and oil it, it is not the end. It is alive, it moves. It reacts towards heat, humidity and cool weather. It's something to take care of." 



Image © Khalid Shafar



Image © Khalid Shafar

## PROJECT DETAILS

**Proposed Retail Price:**  
AED 10,500 / USD 2,900

**Production origin:**  
UAE/ Dubai - at my own workshop (the online featured prototype was produced by myself while living in New Zealand)

**Where to purchase:**  
Available to order via website:  
[www.khalidshafar.com](http://www.khalidshafar.com)

**Dimensions:**  
Chair: 40 x 42 x 88cm  
Table: 67 x 33.5 x 54cm



Image © Khalid Shafar