

# Dark Side of the Moon

Superhero-inspired or not, the Half Moon is leading the pack for a new generation of chairs



Image courtesy of Dodolivin

By Christina Owens  
CTW Features

No, Louis Saul's latest design wasn't inspired by Batman, and it doesn't come complete with a "Robin" side table. The German designer's Half Moon Chair, featured as the center of the Dodolivin booth at the International Furnishing Show in Cologne, Germany, was inspired by some a little more powerful. "It was a wonderful moon in the western part of Turkey, sickle shaped of course," Saul says. "The idea of the design came late summer of 2007, and the form was in my head immediately and on paper only a few hours later."

Saul's orange and black reading chair features a body made from a composite of wood and orange sponge. "Not too many people are using it in modern design," he says. Part of the new generation of wing chairs, the Half Moon Chair is meant for comfortable reading but was designed not to lead to sleep. "The form of the upholstery was probably inspired by a security piece that I wear in summertime a lot," he says. "It is a protector for my back because I like to ride motorbikes."

For Saul, the best feature is "of course the book shelves. It's always good to have a good book right next to you."

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# Matchmaker, Matchmaker

Tile choice depends on room, use and even geography. Here's what you should know before you buy

Follow solid advice when choosing floor, wall and decorative tiles – choosing based on just color or size can lead to extra work and extra headaches. London-based interior designer Morwenna Brett

offers five tips for determining which tiles are suitable for your intended use in her latest book, "The Home Decorator's Tile Bible: A Complete Guide to Using and Choosing Tiles" (Firefly Books, 2008).

1) Floor tiles are designed to be strong and endure the wear and tear of people walking on them. As you might expect, floor tiles are thicker than other tiles and will withstand heavier loads.

2) Wall tiles are usually not strong enough to be walked on. Although you can often use a floor tile on the wall, the opposite doesn't apply.

3) Floor tiles can be used on walls, but because they are much harder than wall tiles, problems may arise when drilling through them or cutting them to fit around pipework, basins or windows.

4) Bathroom floor tiles and tiles used in wet areas such as swimming pools and shower stalls need to be nonslip. The wrong choice of tile would be very dangerous here. You need either a rough, less-polished surface, or a small format, like mosaic, where the grout lines and edges give grip.

5) If you live in an area of the world with frost condition, outdoor tiles must be nonabsorbent so they don't take in water, which can expand and damage the tile when it freezes. Sunrooms also need tiles that can withstand freezing and thawing. This type of tile is called vitreous or impervious: Porcelain is a good example, along with some stones and slates.



Image courtesy of Walker Zanger