

Q&A

Step Inside and Watch Things Heat Up

▼ Karim Rashid, the long, tall designer who has created everything from the Garbo wastebasket to a manhole cover for Con Edison, is curating a show opening March 4 at the Museum of Arts and Design: "Totally Rad: Karim Rashid Does Radiators." It includes Klobs, his own radiator design.

Why did you want to design a radiator?

The company that made it just approached me and I thought it was a great challenge, and also I am kind of staying as plural as possible. I don't want to specialize in anything. I just designed a light switch, a laptop, a vacuum cleaner, a casino, a pharmacy, a line of jeans. These are the kinds of extreme things I like to do.

Radiators haven't had any real attention until the last decade. Within 10 years there has been a plethora of beautiful radiators, but the majority of us are not familiar with what is going on.

You're all in white today.

I've been 10 years head-to-toe in white or pink. In the '80s and even the '90s, the uniform of the designer or architect was black. I decided to get rid of every black garment I had and I

started only wearing white. Pink is something even as a child and teenager I always loved.

You've got to be pretty secure as a man to wear pink.

Yes.

You just finished renovating a loft. What do the radiators look like?

I hid them all.

Why? What did they look like?

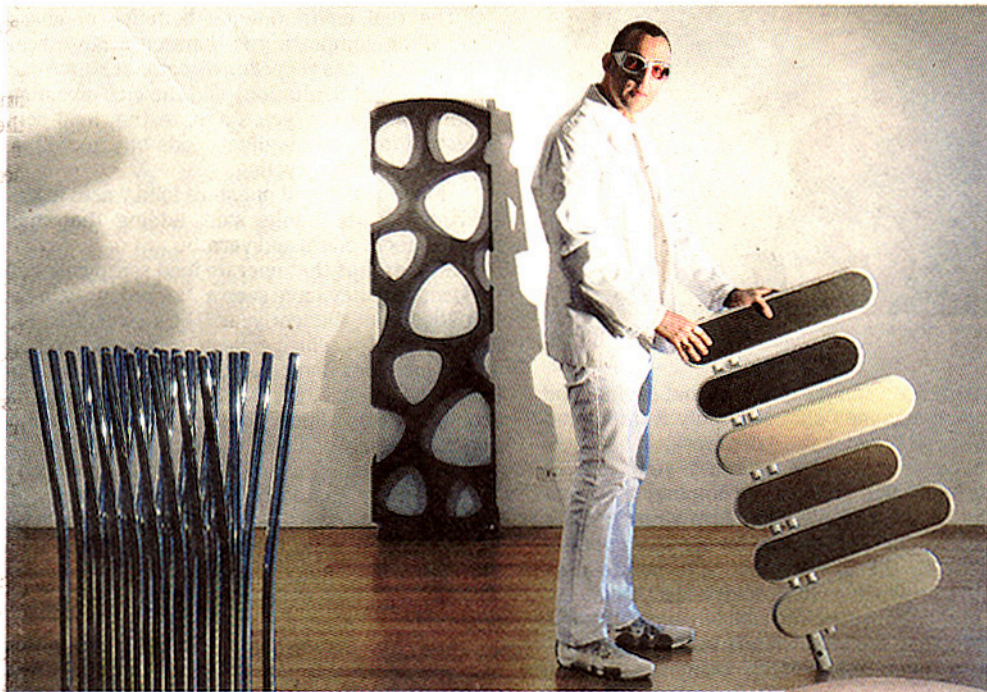
Like 1930s typical radiators, very industrial looking.

They're kind of beautiful, though, no?

They're atrocious. Those things are over. A radiator like that is like saying, "I'm gonna go buy a horse and buggy instead of a car." Design is about innovation, it's about technology, it's about changing behavior and social life, developing new ideas of beauty, new aesthetics. I can completely understand and appreciate historic objects, but I'm here to help us evolve.

JOYCE WADLER

Through May 17 at 2 Columbus Circle, (212) 299-7777, madmuseum.org.



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