

Culture Count

A Prickly Project Perks Up

Sebastian Errazuriz's "Porcupine Cabinet" was conceived and fabricated in his Williamsburg studio. When asked to calculate how much of his idea came from various stages in the process, the Chilean-born artist described an early "eureka" moment, when 70% of the concept came to him in one shot. He then pinned a draft of the idea to a wall, and left it there for almost eight months "to see if it could stand the test of time," he said. "Because when an idea is new it's like looking through a telescope. It looks blurry."

This can unnerve the 33-year-old designer. But after a significant courtship with "Porcupine," more structured efforts commenced: 18 prep sketches, three sets of blueprints, model making and construction

with a team of seven assistants and woodworkers.

Accounting for the 53 weeks that the initial "Porcupine" required left Mr. Errazuriz feeling "slightly goofy and foolish" and pondering the difference between wasted time, and an artist's necessarily nonlinear process. "I wish it were more efficient," he said. Particularly irksome among the hundreds of hours he spent working on the cabinet were the 15, he estimated, that were swallowed up on his commute to purchase materials. "I can't believe how many hours I spent going to Home Depot."

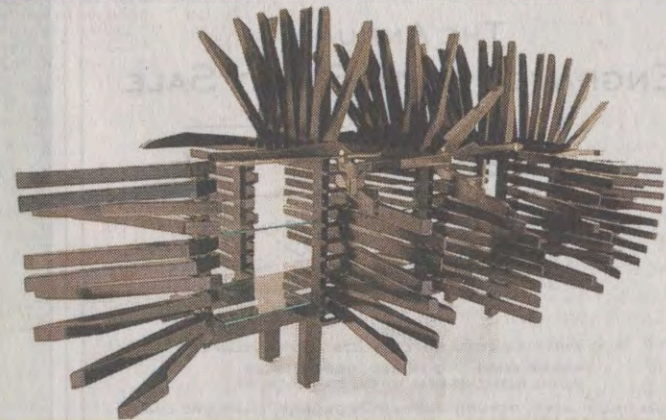
The cabinet was first exhibited at Design Miami 2010. Two have been sold since, and one will be on display in his show opening April 28 at the Cristina Grajales Gallery in Soho.

—Lizzie Simon

Sebastian Errazuriz (2)



Sebastian Errazuriz, above, with his 'Porcupine Cabinet'



Sebastian Errazuriz's 'Porcupine Cabinet' features independently controlled slats that can be positioned to resemble the animals covered in quills. How many hours did it take the artist to create it?

