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Ambiente 2014: Universal Expert

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A key highlight from consumer goods fair [Ambiente](#) this month, UK-based [Universal Expert](#)'s approach to creating practical yet stylish solutions for the modern home make it a brand to watch. The latest venture from renowned British designer Sebastian Conran, the collection is designed with urban living in mind – chiming with the lifestyle depicted in [Design Democracy: Shift](#) that desires space-saving and transformable products.

The contemporary product range places functionality foremost. Utilitarian shapes dominate designs with clean lines in white ceramic, brushed metal and pale wood. Dual-functionality is a common feature among compact products for tidy kitchens. They include a bread bin with a drop-down side that becomes a chopping board, and an electric whisk with attached storage unit, to keep accessories and wiring neatly stowed.

Practicality is also found in the more lighthearted designs – a particular highlight being the stacking mugs with saucers that double as lids, the coloured handles adding an element of fun. For similar uses of colour, look to [White With a Bright](#) from [Ambiente 2014: Colour & Materials](#).

For more innovations in kitchen and tableware, look out for our full [Ambiente 2014](#) coverage. See the [Practical Details](#) trend for standout products that feature original and additional functionality.