

# RETROUVIUS

## PRESS RELEASE

### **REMEMBRANCE CHAIR BY SUBIN SEOL WITH RETROUVIUS**

London Design Festival 15-19th September, 2025

**Retrouvius elevates reuse through creative collaboration and asks why more isn't happening?**

**Retrouvius and Korean designer Subin Seol team up to breathe new life into architectural remnants from an iconic brutalist building to make the case for reuse as both necessity and inspiration.**

Teak handrails, salvaged from Fawley Power Station, Hampshire (UK), once an architectural landmark powering the South Coast and latterly as a filming location, now find new form in *Remembrance Chair* a creative collaboration between Retrouvius and Korean artist, Subin Seol.

The collection, limited to an edition of 12, which can be viewed and purchased in the duration of the **London Design Festival 2025**, was initiated when Subin heard Adam talk at the Royal College of Art whilst studying. A follow up visit to Retrouvius resulted in Subin “discovering” the hand rail in the warehouse — the tricky reuse leaving the material languishing in a corner of the shop until Subin saw its limitations as design potential.

Subin Seol combined her skill and love for materiality with sensitivity and precision. Her interpretation of the reclaimed teak is both sensitive and bold, allowing the story of the wood to remain visible while reshaping it into something quietly radical.

“I wanted to honour the past life of the material while giving it a form that feels alive and present” says Seol. “Working with something that’s already lived - already held meaning - invites a different kind of responsibility. But also opens up space for emotion in the making”.

“We’ve built Retrouvius on the unexpected potential of what others leave behind” says Adam Hills. “It still surprises me that reuse isn’t more central to how we design. This collaboration allowed us to explore what’s possible when you give beautiful materials - and a brilliant young maker - space to breathe. But it’s also a provocation: What could design look like if we took reuse not as a constraint but as the starting point for creativity? What happens when designers treat materials with memory not as waste, but as a story worth continuing? These are some of the important questions it asks”.

The Remembrance Chair can be viewed at The Retrouvius showroom from the 15th to 19th September 2025. Each piece is individually numbered and crafted from varying cuts of the reclaimed handrails, offering subtle differences in tone, texture and history - making every chair inherently unique.

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## **PRESS ENQUIRES & IMAGE REQUESTS:**

press@retrouvius.com

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The Fawley Power Station used not only to provide the South coast with power but also a cinematic location for films and TV such as Star Wars, Mission: Impossible-Rogue Nation, Rollerball and Red Dwarf.

[Remembering 'landmark' Fawley Power Station ahead of demolition - BBC News](#)



## Subin Seol

Subin Seol is an award winning visionary furniture designer based in London and Seoul, driven by a belief in the transformative power of design. She sees design as more than aesthetics and function; it is a medium for storytelling and narrative exploration. Through her creative vision and dedication to narrative-driven craftsmanship, Seol strives to shape immersive environments that inspire, challenge, and leave a lasting impression on those who encounter them.

## Retrouvius quotes, Adam Hills

“Salvage is manual, slow, unglamorous and logistically difficult, but it is also immensely rewarding. There’s undoubtedly a feel-good factor that comes from taking something unloved and cherishing it, something unvalued and making it precious.”

“Fawley Power Station. We managed to save interior teak joinery but unfortunately were not able to rescue as much as we could have — earlier notification would have allowed us to save more precious material.”

“The market has rarefied and specialised but the underlying motivation remains strong as ever. With the combined work of the salvage and design facets of Retrouvius, we are able to complete the cycle of re-use, and above all we hope to inspire others, all around the world, to similarly utilise their local salvage streams.”