

# Knock Knock

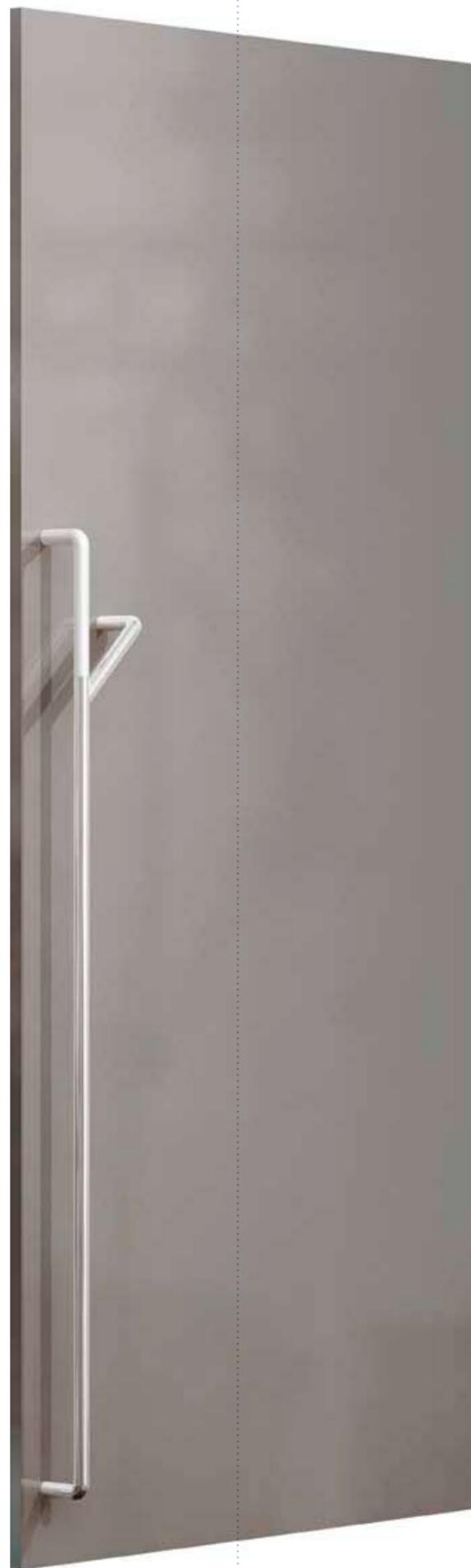
Designer Gavin Harris introduces his White Collection, a series of door furniture that adds a touch of humour to items normally taken for granted.

Words Alexandra Smith

Photos David Sanderson and Guy Robinson



Harris's door levers and pull handles come in a variety of shapes and sizes; there's something for every interior.



Gavin Harris  
White Collection

## What's in the White collection?

It's a homogeneous collection that consists of door levers and pull handles, cupboard handles, doorstops, a coat stand and coat hooks.

## What are coat hooks and a coat stand doing in a collection of door furniture?

You often see a hook mounted on a door or a coat stand in close proximity to a door. That's what gave me the idea to add these items to the collection. It's a way of keeping the integrity of the door intact.

## What makes it a collection, apart from the use of white, of course?

The idea was to create a collection of door fittings that tied together. The colour and the rounded forms give the collection a clean, soft feel that's easy on the eye. I also wanted to provide a bit of humour. People see the doorstops and think of golf balls. My aim was to highlight objects that are normally overlooked.

## Why white?

White is very functional. It's clean, it catches the eye, and it enables people to read the silhouette of an object.

## Why did you choose this particular L-shape for the door lever?

The shape helps people to use the lever. It provides those who have difficulty moving their hands with options for gripping the handle. The white upright also assists visually impaired people to identify the door lever against a dark door.

## What about the coat stand – is it user-friendly as well?

Well, I wanted the coat stand to be sculptural and visually interesting when not in use. By creating different heights, I've made it possible for the user to hang up each garment individually and to keep them all in view. And the rounded forms prevent wrinkles.

## What about the materials?

The white material is an impact-resistant, machine-grade nylon selected for its workability and its softness. Stainless steel, which I used for the remainder of the elements, is hard-wearing, and it's a standard material in the door-hardware industry.

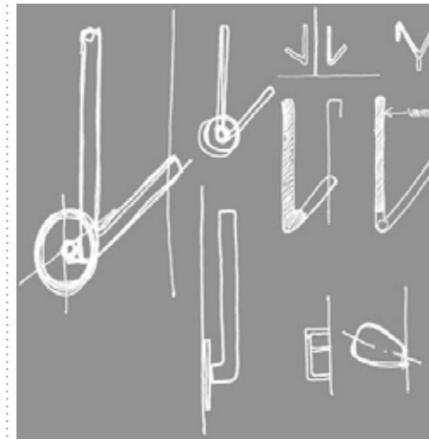
## Will you be adding other items to the collection?

That's my intention. At this moment, I already have sketches of bathroom accessories in the same style.

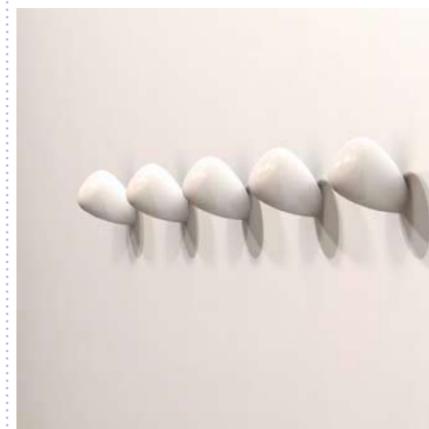
## What's more important to you – user-friendliness or design?

Tough one. I guess I feel that everything I design should be user-friendly to begin with. With that as my point of departure, I move to the design. I see no use in creating something that is mainly aesthetic and unable to fulfil its function properly. Something that's beautiful but not functional is irritating.

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A family affair: the soft forms of doorstops and coat hooks join curved lever handles to form a line of close-knit relatives.



Similar to Harris's Stop It! doorstops are coat hooks that look like golf balls.



Visually interesting when not in use is this sculptural coat stand, which features soft rounded hangers for wrinkle-free garments.