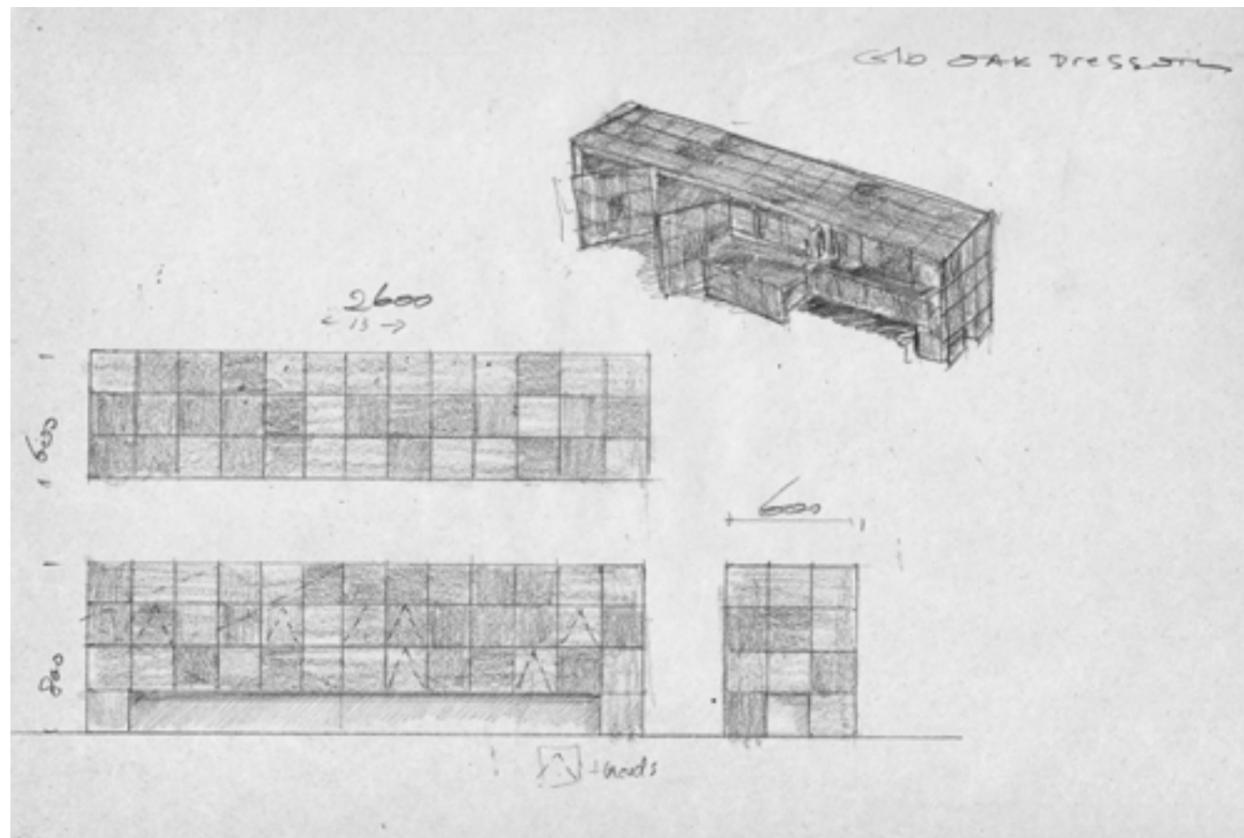


PIET HEIN EEK

OLD OAK TILE  
DRESSER





## OLD OAK CABINET NO. 3

This cabinet is the last in the old oak series, we ran out of wood.

Years ago, we swapped a batch of sawn logs that had lain in a farmer's barn for decades. The wood was rock hard (oak hardens over time), cracked and discoloured. Some logs were more wretched than others. In the end, the worst wood remained and from that, as we so often do, we made the most luxurious product. Bad is just how you look at it; it takes a lot of time to make something with it, but the older the oak, the nicer the colour and texture.

We scrape and saw the wood and make 20x20-centimetre tiles and clad the cabinets with them. The design is of deceptive simplicity; the size of the tile determines the size of the cabinet. The three cabinets therefore differ only in their proportions.

Behind the tiles is a whole world. To open the cabinet, we created a tilting system hidden behind a tile. You have to know or try which tile is the one that tilts. If you press your hand against the tile, it gives way and the door or drawer on the tile above it can be opened. The double pull-out wooden drawer runner that we developed ourselves (I wrote a separate piece about that earlier) ensures that the drawer opens smoothly all the way.

For the doors, we specially developed a brass hinge. A drawer consists of about 30 parts. The image of the cabinet is minimalist, but on closer inspection, there is no doubt that maximum attention has been paid to it.

# THE PROCESS







70 x 70 modeler  
2x Cantina pane 2  
1x Metal 2  
+ EIKEN 2x 100x100

220602

70x70

30

7030

84

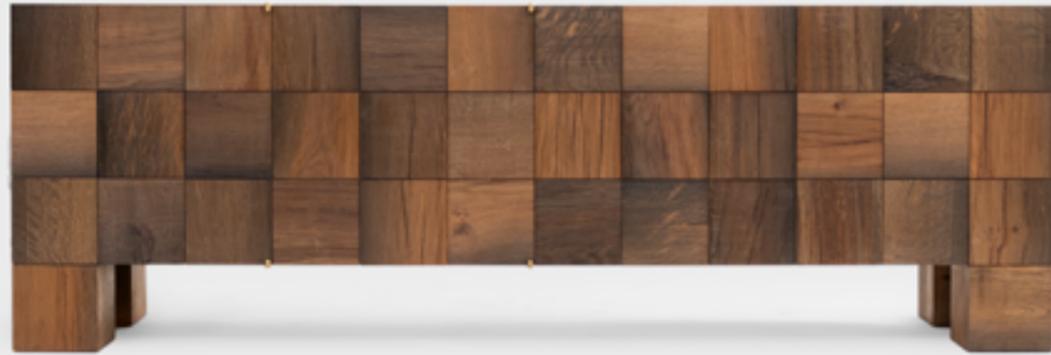








# THE DRESSER



## OLD OAK TILE DRESSER

year	2022 (2020)
size	260 x 60 x 80 cm
material	old oak, plywood (inside), brass hinges
rrp	P.O.R.









## **The double pull-out wooden drawer runner**

I came up with the runner years ago, for the “new kitchen.” The base of the kitchen is made of oak and looks a lot like the kitchen I made in Mavaleix. This one is almost completely made of oak (also the runners.) The runners slide like a charm. And if they don’t, which is pretty much never, all you have to do is apply some candle wax and away you go. If anything breaks, you can easily replace a component and it will last for another hundred years. All very modern, because it’s repairable, and old fashioned at the same time, because almost everything used to be repairable. I don’t think that’s because of the products themselves, but it has more to do with the mindset; sitting behind a typewriter with two left hands has long been considered ideal work for the mediocre.

The oak double pull-out wooden runner really is modern because the drawer opens all the way out. When you open and close the drawer, you hear a wonderful sound as the middle part of the runner is pulled out. I think the runner would be quite affordable if it was made in very large quantities. But we don’t do that, so the runner is only used in our fanciest products for the time being. The runner is incorporated into our old oak cabinet, and the tilting system behind a hidden handle is equally delicious. The scrap wood cabinet I designed in 1989 already had homemade hinges and handles because no standard products were suitable. Since then, we’ve made the lion’s share of our fittings ourselves. Practice makes perfect, and we now make our very own exclusive high-end low-tech fittings.

The past few weeks have been very busy, socially. More than once, I’ve enthusiastically explained to people how fantastic the runner is, and especially that we make it ourselves. I jokingly commented that I should apply for a patent! But there’s no point anymore. The wooden double pull-out drawer runner has been introduced to the world!









