



Chess set design: Exploring alternative designs

A very simple game actually, Chess has but one, concept behind it - crush your opponent into the ground by capturing his King. I love chess. However, while learning the game as a young child, I was always frustrated with the aesthetic of round pieces sitting in square spaces! Why couldn't the pieces be square too? Thus began this designer's hobby-like obsession: to develop non-traditional pieces whose shape, size and detail conveys its purpose WHILE conforming to my proposed square-in-a-square aesthetic... Here you will find but a few of my design explorations - coming soon to a retail outlet near you. The sets are made of aluminum, steel, and/or brass. I cannot escape the importance of "feel" when we reach for an object of "perceived quality", such as when we pick up a fine piece of flatware - the subtle heft in the hand. So too must a good chess piece have substance to it. The pieces and the board should all reflect a visual quality as well. Chess sets become art when they sit idle - hence the need to create something of extreme visual interest. Checkmate! •

