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DESIGN AND ARCHITECTURE

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/ ISSUE 110 · 2019 · S\$8 /

**SURPRISING
SECLUSION**
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**MANTAB
WORKPLACE**
S/LAB 10

TOWER OF BRICKS
INTERVAL ARCHITECTS

**TECH IN THE
BATHROOM**
CATCH-UP ON THE LATEST
ADVANCEMENTS



/ WORDS MICHELE KOH MOROLLO

SALONE DEL MOBILE 2019

The 58th edition of the world's most important furniture fair saw many new products and collections that combined expertise from different fields. Here are six of the most interesting trends we spotted this year.

/ ANGLES AND GEOMETRY /

Cutting, angular silhouettes, bevelled surfaces and unusual asymmetrical or irregular geometric forms were seen in many new designs.



◀ The Lullaby lounge chair has a distinctive configuration and inclination that mimics the effect of a cradle or rocking chair. Designed by Nicola Gallizia for **Porro**, the chair has reversed L-shaped wooden legs and a V-shaped body, with the angle of the V resting on the floor. With its ash wood frame covered in light, blue fabric, and small supporting feet in champagne painted metal, the Lullaby pays homage to the Bauhaus ideal of formal purism and functionality with its clean-lined, solid shape.



▲ From **Molteni&C** comes Surf, a structured but plush sofa designed by renowned Canadian designer duo George Yabu and Glenn Pushelberg. Gently curved edges and rounded, organic forms soften the rigid lines of this elegant, rectilinear sofa. The modular system includes a chaise lounge with a slightly protruding backrest for improved ergonomics and corner and terminal elements. Available in a variety of textiles and leathers from the Molteni&C collection, a complementary "dumb waiter" side table can also be included to complete the setup.



▲ With its smooth prismatic top and pyramid-like metal and marble legs, the Amadeus table looks like a modern, masonry sculpture that's both functional and poetic. Designed by Roberto Lazzeroni for **Giorgetti**, its rectangular, beautifully-grained marble top is accented with a bevelled Canaletto Walnut trim that's available in three colours, and enhances the table's gem-like character.



▲ **Alivar's** avant-garde Shanghai bookcase designed by Bavuso Giuseppe has a unique, eye-catching design that enlivens a room with its sophisticated style. Inspired by the interior of a beehive, the bookcase has shelves designed in a net-like formation that highlights the geometric pattern created by the lines and voids. Shanghai is available with an external frame in oak or matt lacquered MDF, and an inner frame in DULVER, clad in either spatulated concrete "HD grey 111" or lacquer.

/ MADE TO LAST /

The growing concerns about environmental degradation were not lost on many brands, which championed a sustainable, eco-friendly approach to furniture-making.



▲ To celebrate the 75th anniversary of their original classic aluminium 1006 Navy Chair, **Emeco** has introduced a new addition of the chair in sustainable wood. Crafted in collaboration with the brand's Amish neighbours in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, the chair is available in solid white oak, black-stained oak, and walnut wood sourced from sustainably-managed forests. Thoughtfully engineered with the Navy Chair's signature H-stretcher holding the legs in place, this stable and strong chair is versatile and extremely durable.

▼ Japanese graphic designer Rikako Nagashima collaborated with Kinnasand Lab to create SCRAP curtains for **Kvadrat**. Nagashima often thinks about how she can incorporate upcycling in her work and says, "For this collaboration with Kinnasand Lab, I took scrap paper from various projects at my graphic design practice and highlighted the ink stains and print errors as a serendipitous design pattern." The curtains are made of 100 percent recycled polyester produced from recycled plastic bottles, and have a matt and sandy appearance and crepe-like texture.



▲ **e15** introduced the Basis modular work station – a multi-purpose, smart but relaxed desk system that's flexible enough to be used for both entertaining and work. Designed by British architect David Chipperfield, the Basis has a streamlined rectangular top made from flat, wide European oak planks. A high table with a round or square top can be added on to enlarge it. Like other e15 furniture, all materials used in the construction, including the wood from sustainable forests, are recyclable and degradable.



▲ Made out of 100 percent recyclable polypropylene fiber, which transpires and warms like wool, **Woodnotes'** Lake, Pond, Rain and River Outdoor Carpets hold up well even in moist and humid conditions, and can also be used indoors. With a high level of colour fastness even in sunlight, these carpets are resistant to abrasion and damage caused by sea or swimming pool water, making them the perfect choice for balconies, terraces or pool decks.

/ SPACE INVASION /

Space exploration has always captured our imaginations, and this came through in new designs inspired by science fiction and galaxies far far away.



◀ From **B&B Italia Outdoor** comes Cosmos, a collection of small outdoor tables with stone porcelain tops that bring to mind the mysterious patterns of the Milky Way. New York-based multidisciplinary designer Jeffrey Bennett made the tables small so they can be used in pairs or groups of three, and easily adapted to compact contract furnishing schemes, and on balconies and terraces.



► In 2014, Philippe Starck teamed up with Sergio Schito to create Lady Hio – a bevel-edged, high table composed of either 15mm transparent extra-light glass or laminated 8+8 mm thick glass for **Glas Italia**. This year, Starck and Schito upgraded the table legs with Nero Marquina or Arabesque white grey veined marble and feet of brushed aluminium, anodised gold, rose copper, bronze or nickel joints. These new legs, which are tapered and cylindrical, give the table the appearance of a UFO with its landing tripods extended to the ground.



▲ Looking like a chair with wings, the Aisuu Side Chair from **Walter Knoll** has an almost austere geometry that gives it a sleek, futuristic presence. Created by Swiss designer Ginger Zalaba, the chair is her reinterpretation of her late grandfather Otto Kolb's iconic chair of the same name. Kolb was an avant-garde master of the New Bauhaus in the 1950s, and Zalaba who was much inspired by one of his important contributions added the wing-like armrests for increased functionality to suit 21st-century living.



▲ A Red Dot Design Award 2019 winner, the Derby, which looks like a manta-ray-like spacecraft hovering in mid-air, was inspired by the fancy trotting derby hats worn by noblewomen. Designed by Mirco Crosatto of **Linea Light Group**, this suspension lamp also helps with soundproofing by trapping part of the reverberation produced by sounds and noise for cleaner acoustics. The light source comes from the lamp's narrow rectangular diffuser, and can be set to diffused optics or dark light and UGR for work lighting.



▲ Verner Panton's 1971 Pantonova modular wire seating system was made famous when it was included in the set of the 1977 James Bond movie *The Spy Who Loved Me*. This year, **Montana** revives the iconic classic, which more than four decades on, is still one of the most graceful modular seating systems ever created. Consisting of three seating module types – linear, concave and convex – the chairs can be used to create a variety of organically-shaped formations such as circles, S-shapes or half-circles, and are a great option for commercial or hospitality projects.



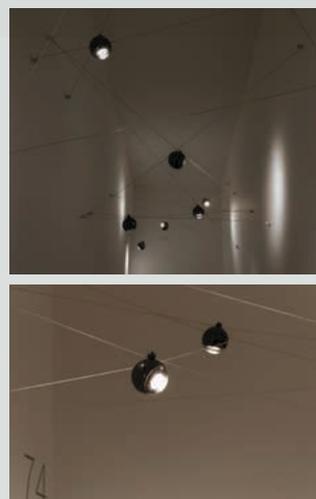
▲ **Flexform** introduced the Zante modular outdoor seating system, which has modules with two different seat depths for increased compositional options. The components can be easily disassembled and stacked for storage when not in use. True to Flexform's dedication to creating durable, weather-resistant outdoor furniture, Zante has a base made of perforated Okoume marine plywood to enable better aeration of the cushions, while an upper structure of highly durable, solid Iroko wood ensures that the sofa weathers to a beautiful colour over time.

/ AS YOU LIKE /

Modular systems that offer a high level of flexibility and ease of use made a good impression at the Fair, and these are some that scored high marks with us.



◀ Composed of two, walnut wood elements that can be placed next to each other or alternated to create open shelving between the two, the Libera shelving system by **Sabi Italia** can be placed against the wall or positioned back to back to create a bi-faced version that functions as an entertainment console or space divider. Designed by Enzo Berti, it has a timeless and pure aesthetic that harmonises well within kitchens, living rooms, studies, bedrooms or bathrooms.



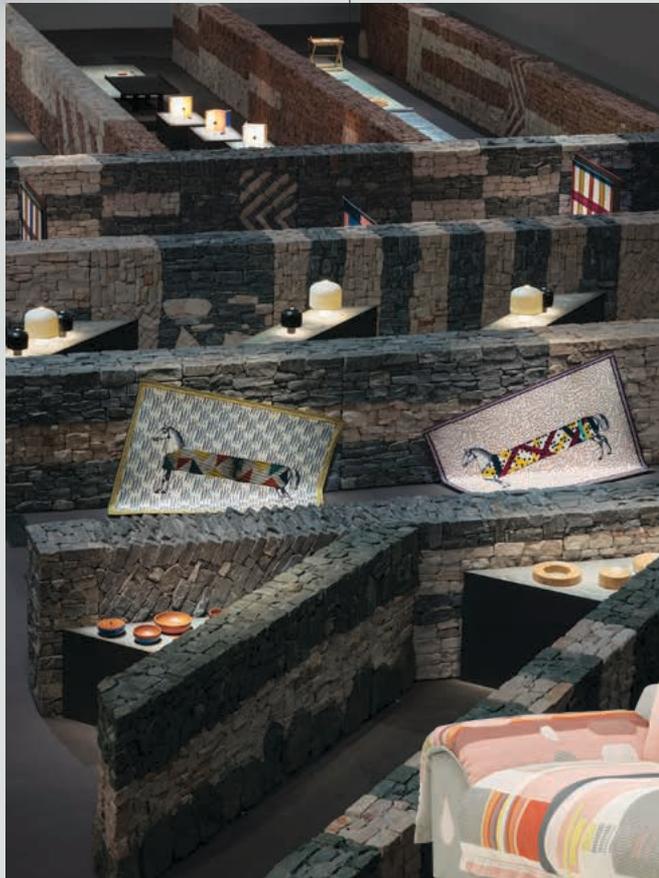
◀ From **Bocci** comes a selection of mesmerising lighting systems that allow for a high level of variety, adaptability and flexibility. Among them is 74, designed by Vancouver and Berlin-based Israeli designer Omer Arbel. This technologically innovative track system includes spotlights housed within sleek, spun metal and cast glass mirrored spheres that are anchored to various points along a polarised cable with magnetic attachment mechanisms.

/ WELL CRAFTED /

The human touch permeates a number of interesting launches this year with designs that involve meticulous craft processes.



▲ At first glance, it's hard to tell if the Taidgh Shelf by **Classicon** is an art object, storage surface or shelf. Conceived by Californian designer-builder Taidgh O'Neil, the various models of these wall mounted shelves were produced using a fragmented joinery-making technique that enables the solid wood elements of the shelves to be connected in unique, sophisticated ways.



◀ **Hermès** celebrates colour and texture with their home accessories collection this year. Items include the eye-catching and dynamic "Hippomobiles" plaid designed by Gianpaolo Pagni with its equestrian motif, colourful cashmere appliques, embroidered pearls, and H Casaque cigar mahogany boxes designed by Joséphine Ciaudo that are clad in exquisite leather marquetry made from the hides of different animals.



◀ The term "*yakisugi*" refers to the traditional Japanese wood charring technique also known as *shou-sugi-ban*, which is used to preserve building timber. Renowned Japanese architect Kengo Kuma collaborated with Czech luxury glassmakers **Lasvit** to capture the imprint of natural *yakisugi* wood in molten glass with the Yakisugi lighting collection. The wood is charred by molten glass leaving a permanent imprint of its scorched, cracked texture on the surface of the glass, so each lamp is an authentic original.



▲ The concept of the homely and snug patchwork quilt is given new life in the form of **Vitra**'s Vlinder Sofa. Designed by its colour and fabric expert Hella Jongerious, Vlinder combines the typical sofa shape with a duvet-like fabric cover. It is produced with a unique weaving technology that enables a wide variety of colours, textures and patterns to be combined into a single, vibrant and warm composition.

/ RETRO /

The past stays alive in the present thanks to these pieces that draw their inspiration from yesterday.



◀ Striking a balance between past and future, **Fritz Hansen** and Jaime Hayon have teamed up to create the Lounge Chair JH97. Imbued with the mid-century spirit that Fritz Hansen is well-known for, this perfectly proportioned chair has a low-slung silhouette, a solid frame of either natural oak, stained oak or black ash, ergonomic wide, flat armrests and curved backrests that provide comfort even with prolonged sitting.



▶ A highlight from **LEMA** is the David Lopez Quincoces-designed LT40 daytime system. The result of much research and development, the LT40 is a highly customisable system of wall and storage elements that has a distinctly Bauhaus personality. Available in a wide range of finishes – wood, lacquered, glasses, clays, natural and reconstructed marbles – that can be mixed and matched, the LT40 offers storage solutions with contemporised retro style.



◀ The memory of floral prints in grandma's bedroom is given a modern update with the Florin bed by **Zanotta**. Showcased at the fair in a scenario of a Parisian bedroom with a romantic atmosphere, the delicate art nouveau-influenced floral prints and pastel hues of the headboard upholstery evokes a gentle nostalgia, and is ideal for creating a softer, more feminine ambience in the bedroom.



◀ A cheerful retro style defines the Carylton dining table, designed by Christina Celestino for **GTV**. Its surface is composed of square-sections of wood inlaid with strips of straw to create a unique marquetry pattern. The rectangular table is available in two heights, and the subtle influence of Art Nouveau can be seen in the table's solid, lacquered trim and lean, curvy support structure and legs.