

OBJECTS OF DESIRE

Nick Vinson highlights the designers that stood out at Milan's Salone del Mobile. You'll never look at a chair in the same way again...



Every April thousands of architects, designers, buyers, curators, gallerists and journalists from 188 nations come to Milan for one event: the Salone Internazionale del Mobile. The furniture fair, in its 58th edition, is a showcase for modern design – and the biggest of its kind.

Started by leading brands whose workshops were founded in the early 20th century, the fair grew when, after the Second World War, Italian architects became involved and brought design to the heart of every piece produced. Today those brands call upon talent from Europe and farther afield, and invite makers from all over the globe to present their products. Here we show our favourites, some new, available to order from September, some recent and already available, and two classics, from 1982 and 1969, that cannot be ignored. All have enduring appeal.

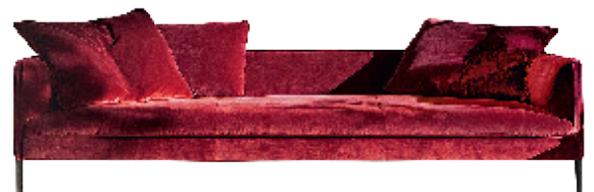
UP CHAIR AND OTTOMAN
Gaetano Pesce for B&B Italia

The inventive work of the Italian architect and designer Gaetano Pesce – often in colourful resin and, in this case, expanded polyurethane – remains not only influential, but popular decades on. When the Up chair and ottoman was launched in September 1969 it caused a sensation with its big bosom and large behind. It features in the permanent design collections of the Triennale in Milan, MoMA in New York and the Vitra Design Museum. For its 50th anniversary it is offered in new solid colours, as well as the striped beige and green shown here. £4,402; bebitalia.com



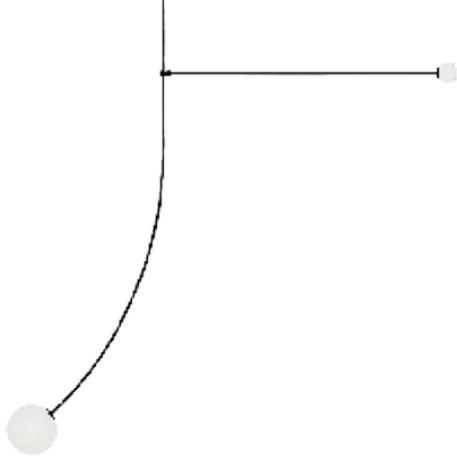
TEAPOT
John Pawson for When Objects Work

In Milan John Pawson unveiled a flagship store for the Italian leather house Valextra, introduced the Ellipse collection of marble objects for Salvatori, exhibited limited-edition diptych prints from his Spectrum photography book at the Fondazione Sozzani and showed his tableware produced by When Objects Work, a Belgian brand that edits objects designed by leading architects and designers. One of my favourites is this elegant silver-plated teapot. £1,485; matchesfashion.com



PAUL SOFA
Vincent Van Duysen for Molteni

Vincent Van Duysen's architecture and interior design office is in Antwerp, but he is also the art director of the Italian furniture brand Molteni. The Paul sofa is typical Van Duysen; pure and simple, understated and appealing. He wanted it to be timeless and trendless. Paul is rational, has good proportions and die-cast aluminium feet, and this version is upholstered in lush red alpaca and wool velvet, which in my view is one of the best upholstery fabrics for the home. £8,167; molteni.it



MOBILE CHANDELIER

Michael Anastassiades

Every other year the furniture fair incorporates EuroLuce, the lighting show. A highlight is the work of Michael Anastassiades, who designs deceptively simple, modern chandeliers and feature lights for Flos and his namesake brand. This new statement chandelier is part of a series introduced in 2008. The black-patinated brass rods are finished with mouth-blown opaline globes containing LED lamps. £11,400; from September, michaelanastassiades.com



MINI LOGO LAMP

Giorgio Armani, Armani/Casa

Giorgio Armani created this pyramid-shaped lamp for his design studio in 1982. When he launched his interiors brand Armani/Casa in 2000, the design became an integral part of his home collection and got its name. While the original is monumental in scale, standing 82cm tall, the newer model is a domestic-friendly 24cm and is made in a honey-toned satin brass with a gold resin shade. £1,400; from autumn, armanicasa.com



DC1701B COFFEE TABLE

Vincenzo de Cotiis

The Milan-based architect Vincenzo de Cotiis integrates reclaimed materials, marked with a patina of time and wear, with new and precious ones in his furniture. This table, crafted from granite and recycled fiberglass, was first shown in New York in 2017 at Carpenters Workshop Gallery. This year De Cotiis and his wife, Claudia Rose, have curated *Anthology*, a show displaying his works alongside 12 other designers from the gallery. POA; decotiis.it



RUSSEL SOFA

Rodolfo Dordoni for Minotti

Rodolfo Dordoni, an architect based in Milan, has been collaborating with Minotti since 1997; he is artistic director and co-ordinates all of the brand's collections. The Russel sofa has a nice curve to it on one side, which makes it not only cocooning, but also great for conversations. It nods to the 1950s without being too retro, with solid oak legs and light bronze-coloured metal feet. £9,015; minotti.com



COFFEE AND SIDE TABLES

Aldo Bakker for Karakter Copenhagen

Designer Aldo Bakker from the Netherlands developed this table as part of a commission for the Wallpaper* Handmade exhibition. It was presented at Salone del Mobile in 2015 and is now produced by Karakter Copenhagen. The spiral form is crafted from a single sheet of lacquered steel that is cut, rolled and folded into a table, with a self-supporting structure. The new larger size was presented for the first time at this year's fair. €1,770 to €3,360; karakter-copenhagen.com

LUXX DESIGN



COTONE ARMCHAIR

Ronan & Erwan Bouroullec for Cassina

Brothers Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec have been working together in Paris since 1998, and have just installed six delightful fountains on the Champs Élysées. In Milan they showed a collection of ceramic vases for Vitra and this Cotone seating collection for Cassina. Launched in 2017 with a dining chair, the range has been extended to include a two and three-seater sofa as well as this armchair with a coloured extruded aluminium frame and cosy, soft-padded upholstery. Armchair from £3,590; from September, cassina.com

TEO TABLES

Christophe Delcourt for Delcourt Collection

As well as designing for Minotti, Collection Particulière and the like, the Paris-based designer Christophe Delcourt edits his own line, the Delcourt Collection, which he presents in Milan. His work is clean and modern, yet influenced by the French arts décoratifs. These spruce Teo side tables are crafted by French carpenters who assemble the flat, curved and pointed elements, and leave their junctions deliberately visible. The timber has been brushed with wire brushes, giving it a deeply textured finish. €4,588 to €5,322; christophedelcourt.com



HALO AND HÉCATE LAMPS
Barber & Osgerby for Hermès

Hermès is quite a big deal in Milan during the furniture fair. It collaborates with a roster of international talent to create its textiles, furniture, tableware and accessories. The London-based team of Ed Barber and Jay Osgerby designed these new lamps. Halo, the larger of the two, is made of white porcelain that contrasts with the smaller Hécate, crafted from black granite, a rock so hard that it has to be carved out using a diamond-tipped drill. The dome sits on a simple cylindrical base; although top-heavy, its weightiness is visually pleasing. The lamps are finished with a pumpkin-coloured calf-leather cable. *Halo*, £6,250, and *Hécate*, £11,025; from September, hermes.com





MIU MIU M/MATCHING COLORSTOOL
M/M Paris for Miu Miu

Here is a fun thing. Mathias Augustyniak and Michael Amzalag of M/M Paris are image-makers for fashion and luxury brands. Strictly speaking they are art directors, but they dabble in furniture too. In 2010 they created a series of chairs, lamps, carpets and door handles for the Hotel Thoumieux

in Paris, bringing an alphabet to life, and for the 2016 Salone del Mobile they launched M/Maison with the Plusdesign Gallery. This year they launched a stackable three-legged stool in linden wood for Miu Miu. It is customised with 300 matchsticks, which come in 12 colours. €390; miumiu.com



OUTLINE COLLECTION
Pierre Charpin for Arita 1616

After immersing himself in the workshops of Arita, an area of Japan dedicated to porcelain since 1616, the Paris-based designer Pierre Charpin decided to focus on how to design the shape and decor of his tabletop collection at the same time, rather than have one lead on to the other. The results are products that focus on the edge, where the container begins and ends. Charpin's Outline collection was shown at 10 Corso Como in Milan. POA; 10corsocomo.com



CALF IKEBANA VASE
Jonathan Anderson for Loewe

Jonathan Anderson, creative director of the Spanish leather house Loewe, has been making all the right noises over the past four years in Milan. There is always a celebration of craft and a spirit of collaboration. For his new series, Loewe Baskets, Anderson approached ten artists and three artisans to re-interpret the theme. The Spanish artisan Idoia Cuesta produced this vase, weaving uneven strips of tan Loewe leather in a method she refers to as her "chaos technique". £895; loewe.com



STACK
Paul Smith for 1882 Ltd

Anyone who has visited Paul Smith's flagship store at 9 Abermarle Street in Mayfair, London, can see the seamless way his clothing and accessories sit alongside the eclectic design and homeware items displayed there. Smith collaborates with trusted makers such as Stelton, Anglepoise and the Rug Company for his design collections. The Stack collection, developed with 1882 Ltd, a pottery in Stoke-on-Trent (1882ltd.com), was launched in Milan. The pieces look like a pile of plates, bowls or saucers, each one glazed in up to 40 layers of one colour that makes up Smith's signature stripe, but they are actually vases. Trompe-l'œil or trick, they're fun. £1,800 to £3,000; paulsmith.com



TALISMAN TRAY
India Mahdavi for Louis Vuitton

The showings of Louis Vuitton's Objets Nomades (nomadic objects), which began in 2012, are among the best-attended in the city. The Paris-based designer India Mahdavi contributed the Talisman table in 2017, and this year added a tray for the Petits Nomades collection of accessories. The foldable table is finished in leather marquetry, made by placing tiny pieces of leather in a pattern. The tray is hand lacquered in the same "benevolent eye" design. Tray, £1,035, and table, £11,500; louisvuitton.com