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The modular MASS series by Agglomerati and Fred Ganim is a celebration of marble

The MASS series by UK-based Agglomerati and Australian furniture maker Fred Ganim, is a collection of art-objects where separate marble slabs are joined to create shelves or tables.

by Pallavi Mehra | Published on : Aug 04, 2021



Agglomerati, a **London**-based studio, has collaborated with furniture maker Fred Ganim from **Melbourne** to unveil a collection of functional art-objects made exclusively in stone. Known as MASS, the range is a series of modular pieces constructed around a central radius, which is both elegant and elemental in design. This series will be presented in **Milan, Italy**, at ALCOVA 2021, a leading exhibition held during **Milan Design Week** (September 5-10, 2021). The MASS series includes three sizes of the modular pieces—MASS Small, MASS Medium and MASS Large. Each piece in the collection comes as a base and three separate slabs of marble that can be slotted in the base to serve as lecterns, shelves or tables. The base of MASS Small has room for one marble slab to be slotted in while the bases of MASS Medium and MASS Large can hold two marble slabs each. The pieces in the range function as both furniture and home decor elements.



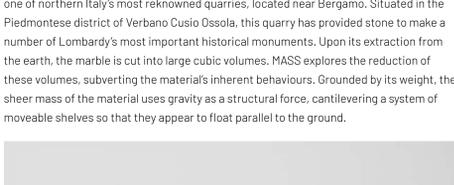
The base of MASS Small has room for one marble slab to be slotted in
Image: Ben Westoby

Agglomerati is a furniture studio which collaborates with **multidisciplinary artists** to create functional art-objects in stone. With the MASS collection, the firm hopes to bring fresh new perspectives to a time-honoured material. "MASS highlights the majesty of stone and a sense of humility is felt when you are in the presence of the large up-right planes. Additionally, the undulating forms instinctively invite tactile play and a desire to run your fingers through the grooves and across the surface. The collection explores the elemental nature of marble and our modern capacity to manipulate it," states Sam Henley, the founder of Agglomerati.



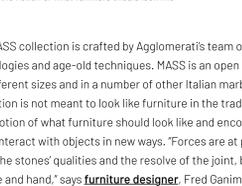
The MASS collection is made using Palissandro marble, sourced from one of Italy's most well-known quarries
Image: Ben Westoby

In its first iteration, the MASS collection is made using Palissandro marble, sourced from one of northern Italy's most renowned quarries, located near Bergamo. Situated in the Piedmontese district of Verbano Cusio Ossola, this quarry has provided stone to make a number of Lombardy's most important historical monuments. Upon its extraction from the earth, the marble is cut into large cubic volumes. MASS explores the reduction of these volumes, subverting the material's inherent behaviours. Grounded by its weight, the sheer mass of the material uses gravity as a structural force, cantilevering a system of moveable shelves so that they appear to float parallel to the ground.



MASS' goal is to challenge the notion of what furniture should look like
Image: Ben Westoby

Each piece in the MASS collection is crafted by Agglomerati's team of artisans using **avant-garde** technologies and age-old techniques. MASS is an open series that can be manufactured in different sizes and in a number of other Italian marbles. This experimental collection is not meant to look like furniture in the traditional sense. Its goal is to challenge the notion of what furniture should look like and encourage people to inhabit spaces and interact with objects in new ways. "Forces are at play. Not only expressed through the stones' qualities and the resolve of the joint, but also in the tension between eye and hand," says **furniture designer**, Fred Ganim.



MASS Large, which can be used as two tables or shelves
Image: Ben Westoby

This multifunctional series is a celebration of marble and showcases a **minimal design** aesthetic. At first glance, the pieces in the MASS series look like random slabs of marble but look closely and they transform into a lectern, shelf or a table. This minimal collection is apt for compact places such as city apartments, small offices or tiny verandahs. Its functionality depends on the way the marble pieces are slotted in the base. Moreover, the collection is easy to use and store as the marble pieces can be easily joined and disjoined without the use of any tools.



The MASS collection is easy to use and store
Image: Ben Westoby

Furthermore, in addition to the MASS collection, Agglomerati will also present a new version of the iconic Round Table created in 2015 by Fred Ganim. This limited-edition coffee table is carved from a single block of Brazilian Quartzite. The table exhibits a multitude of colours that emerge in tightly compressed layers on the table's smooth surface, and cascade down the legs, each a fluid, folded curve. The deep grey of the stone is contrasted with layers of warm red and cool, neutral hues.



The new version of the iconic Round Table created in 2015 by Fred Ganim
Image: Mattia Parodi

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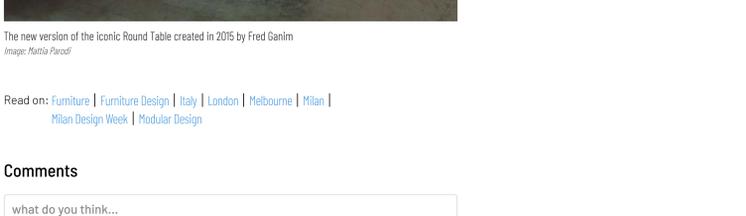
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Pallavi is a Mumbai-based freelance journalist. She studied Economics and English in the US and currently writes about design, travel and lifestyle for leading Indian publications like *Architectural Digest India*, *ELLE DECOR India* and *Mint-Lounge*. An avid traveller and design enthusiast, she finds...

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