The 10 Best Things We Saw at Salone del Mobile

From an exhibition in a 19th-c. Modernist house to a blood red sofa, the highlights of Milan's annual design fair

A view of Jaime Hayon's Fantasia at Marcel Wanders's friend's new signature abode of, and Alessandro Mendini, on view in the harbor-front Wanders Milan flagship store. Courtesy of Marcel Wanders

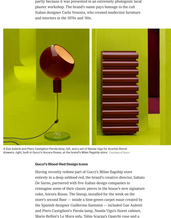
Share this story 0
Send any friend a story
As a subscriber, you have 10 articles to gift each month. Any article you share will be free for them for a limited time.
Learn more about our gift policy.
Or copy this link to share:
https://nyti.ms/2Ldbxzu

Iconic Milan fair Salone del Mobile is hard to take repetitive shade of, and Alessandro Mendini, on view in the harbor-front Milan flagship store. Courtesy of Marcel Wanders

Left, Formafantasma's new furniture for Danish/English gallery, exhibited at the Fondazione ICA Milano; right, Sofia Bruno's Nuvola Rossa, at the brand's Milan flagship store. Courtesy of Formafantasma; Photo: Andrea Rossetti; Courtesy of Sofia Bruno; Photo: Nicolò Bianchi

Formafantasma's Floral Chairs and Futuristic Lights

One of the most talked-about openings of the week was the Milan-based Dutch-Italian duo Formafantasma's first solo show at Fondazione ICA Milano, for which the pair — Andrea Trimarchi and Simone Farresin — drew on memories of their childhood homes in Italy to create surprising hybrid chairs and lamps that pair cast aluminum with colorful wood, frilly fabrics and hand-painted or -woven patterns. The duo's inspirations ranged from Sardinian nuraghi to Roman grandfather's house. Formafantasma also debuted a new series of utilitarian but delicate lights for Flos made from LED strips enclosed in thick glass panels.



Flexure from B/S Mirror and Embless Ball's new furniture brand, Mirror Venezia, displayed inside a Jaime Hayon-designed Milan showroom. Courtesy of Embless

A New Furniture Line From Dimensionalists

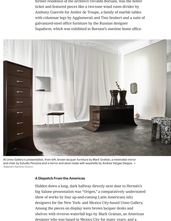
Dizzy yet?

Dizzy recently redesigned its Milan flagship store entirely in a deep oxblood red, the brand's creative director, Italian Dr Jaeve, partnered with five Italian design companies to reimagine some of their classic pieces in the house's new signature color, including the Dizzy Chair, Dizzy Sofa and Dizzy Table. Here, man's wind-blue — inside a three-green carpet man created by the Spanish designer Guillermo Santomà — included Cam Aubert and Piero Castiglioni's Parabola lamp, Nanda Vigo's Rivet cabinet, Maria Bellini's Le Mura sofa, Tobia Scarpa's Quetzle vase and a Jaime Hayon-designed Dizzy Chair upholstered in a Kvadrat fabric in his great-grandfather Piero Portaluppi. Each item will be produced in a limited edition of 100.

A Dale Aubert and Piero Castiglioni Parabola lamp, left, and a set of Nanda Vigo for Arcahome Rivet shelves, right, both made in Dizzy's Nuvola Rossa, at the brand's Milan flagship store. Courtesy of Dizzy

Gucci's Blood-Red Design Icons

Having recently redone part of Gucci's Milan flagship store entirely in a deep oxblood red, the brand's creative director, Italian Dr Jaeve, partnered with five Italian design companies to reimagine some of their classic pieces in the house's new signature color, including the Dizzy Chair, Dizzy Sofa and Dizzy Table. Here, man's wind-blue — inside a three-green carpet man created by the Spanish designer Guillermo Santomà — included Cam Aubert and Piero Castiglioni's Parabola lamp, Nanda Vigo's Rivet cabinet, Maria Bellini's Le Mura sofa, Tobia Scarpa's Quetzle vase and a Jaime Hayon-designed Dizzy Chair upholstered in a Kvadrat fabric in his great-grandfather Piero Portaluppi. Each item will be produced in a limited edition of 100.



A Dale Aubert and Piero Castiglioni Parabola lamp, left, and a set of Nanda Vigo for Arcahome Rivet shelves, right, both made in Dizzy's Nuvola Rossa, at the brand's Milan flagship store. Courtesy of Dizzy

Of the 80 one-off's in Elle Decor's exclusive, from left, a wooden table by Aggiornamenti and Tina Vacilotto, and pewter coffee & bookend by Kapelusz. Courtesy of Elle Decor; Photo: Luca Lorenzo

A Takeover of a Modernist Architect's Former Home

Since its inception in 2010, the Alcova satellite fair has become the most important design event in Milan, with its curated exhibitions and pop-up boutiques outside the city. For 2016 (using Vittorio Gregotti Valmorbida and the 1963 Villa Bavrans. The latter venue, the former residence of the architect Geraldo Bavrans, was the better ticket and featured pieces like a two-tone wood rotor divider by Gabriele Rizzo and a set of Ettore Sottsass-inspired ceramic vases with columnar legs by Aggiornamenti and Tina Vacilotto and a cake of garnanzed steel allies furniture by the Russian designer Napalkov, which was exhibited in Bavrans's sunrise home office.

Of Green Gallery's presentation, from left, Arman lacquer furniture by Mark Brahan; a minimalist mirror by Ettore Sottsass; and a dinner and coffee set made by Andrea Vargas Duque. Courtesy of Green Gallery; Photo: Nicolò Bianchi

A Dispatch From the Americas

Hidden down a long, dark hallway directly next door to Hermès's big Salone presentation was "Origen," a comparatively understated show of works by four up-and-coming Latin American (ish) designers for the New York- and Mexico City-based Green Gallery. Among the highlights was a minimalist mirror by the Brazilian-born, Milan-based Ettore Sottsass, a Mexican-American designer who was based in Mexico City for many years, and a series of glittering stools and mirrors, covered in crushed iridescent seashells, by the Colombian designer Andrea Vargas Duque (a co-founder of the 1950s-era show brand Duque Bezerra).

Lights commissioned by Lowe and made by Arthur Vanderbo, left, and Hours Barrington, right. Courtesy of Lowe

Unusual Lamps Commissioned by Lowe

For its eighth and biggest Salone exhibition, the Spanish luxury house Lowe commissioned 24 artists and designers from around the world to create lamps to materials and styles of their own choosing. The results range from the futuristic (a tangle of neon tubes by Hours Barrington) to the whimsical (a lamp, in ceramic, a miniature storefront with metal shutters and a pull, cued by the London-based painter Alvaro Barrington) to the rustic (an ancient-looking ceramic vessel punched with holes, and lit from within, by the Japanese artist Kazuaori Hanzawa).

Tass of an tools designed and exhibited by the Georgian interiors firm Rosemo Studio. Joe Hasbrouck; Courtesy Rosemo Studio

Interesting Deals From a Georgian Design Duo

Eye-catching tools are a true rarity in the design world, which is why the tass of tools designed and exhibited by the Georgian interiors firm Rosemo Studio of the Dublin, Georgia-based firm Rosemo Studio — founded by Nina Jankowicz and Bert Simeon — is materials ranging from chunky wood to clear steel tubes with wave-bead finials. The design duo were inspired to focus on the all-overlooked category by their struggles to source great bed frames for their own interiors projects.

Works from Ostas & Goldmann's Gen (Italian, from left: enameled ceramic by de Pas and a cute shape) Hessian table by Mitoraj. Courtesy of Ostas & Goldmann

Ostas & Goldmann's Next Generation of Design Talents

The Italian fashion brand Ostas & Goldmann's second annual Gen D project reflects the company's commitment to supporting young talent both within and beyond the fashion world. For the ambitious group exhibition, the house enlisted the Italian curator Federica Sala to select 10 emerging designers and organize a series of workshops. Among the resulting pieces are interesting stylized and cultural mash-ups like the Chinese designer Ze Wu's wild, squiggly vessels, which feature Chinese and Italian good-luck motifs and are coated in classical Venetian enamel.

Two photos of Mathieu's architectural details, from the more than 5,000 images exhibited in Adam Black's "Elements" show. Courtesy of Adam Black

Close-up Photographs of Modernist Interiors

In a simple but memorable exhibition mounted in one of the Milan Design Week's satellite venues, photos of the work of two iconic curator and photographer Adam Reich — along with his colleagues Mark Cherico and Jan Kloss — displayed over 5,000 photos of details from famed Modernist homes and buildings. In showing the photos, which he's shared on his Instagram account, @modernhouseporn, Reich hopes to bring attention to interiors and furnishings that were custom-made for each project by their architects. It was easy to get lost in the show, paying over doorknobs, stair rails and lamps from around the world.

Works from a show of furniture made from the acrylic resin material Neon, from left: a Peng Peng table by Manfredi Venezia and a double-sided oscillating chair by Gianfranco Bartolotta. Claudio Bolla

A Circular Ping-Pong Table

The exhibition "Design Days Double Feature," also curated by Federica Sala, was a thoughtful example of a materially based exhibition, organized around the use of a particular material. The six pieces in the show were all made from the acrylic resin surface material Corian and designed by up-and-coming Italian studios Bar Cara / Davide, Micri-Ed and Zanellato/Bortotto. A standout was the Bianch table by Martinelli Venezia, a circular Neo-Geo Ping-Pong table whose "feet" is formed from a nesting of a lot.

Write a Comment

Share this story 0

Sponsored
A Classic Parkinson Cure on Update
Sponsored
The Security Film Is Decidedly Victorian
Sponsored
The Most Beautiful Outdoor Photo Y Magazine Has Ever Covered