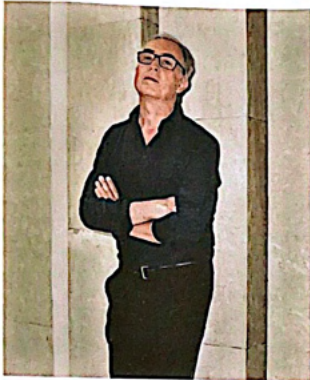


Ⓜ SALONE DEL MOBILE SPECIAL

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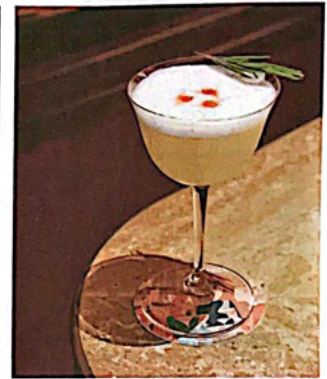
Making a stand
Curator Stefano Boeri talks us through Supersalone.
PAGE 06



From the archive
Bellucci Gallery switches us on to vintage Italian designs.
PAGE 38



Chain reaction
Milan is peddling cycle lanes. We put you in the frame.
PAGE 34



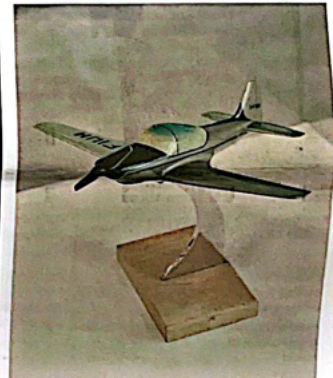
Back in the mix
Let's get together again. First stop: Langosteria Bistrot.
PAGE 39

PLACES TO GO / MILAN

Design meets leisure Make a splash at Salone



Early September will see Salone del Mobile back in full swing after the 2020 version of the world's biggest design event was cancelled. And Milan is ready to put on a show for its guests. New improvements to the city have added both to its liveability for residents and its attractiveness to visitors. Soak up this refreshed spirit at the glorious Bagni Misteriosi, a recently restored 1930s public swimming pool (read the full story on page 33). We also have pedal-lovers covered, with our report on Milan mayor Giuseppe Sala's efforts to dramatically improve his city's cycling infrastructure. Let's get in the saddle.
• FULL REPORT ON PAGE 34



TRANSPORT / LINATE

Flying visit Check-in out

Salone regulars flying into Milan's Linate Airport this year are in for a well-designed surprise. The terminal has undergone a sleek €40m overhaul, including a collaboration with the Triennale di Milano museum. Before boarding flights, visitors can catch a show at a pop-up museum and view work from design greats Ettore Sottsass, Joe Colombo and Cini Boeri, while also enjoying some beautiful memorabilia from Alitalia's 1970s golden era.
• FULL REPORT ON PAGE 02

LEATHER / LA MARCHE

Screen dream Slat in hand

For Italian furniture brands, Salone del Mobile is the annual showcase to let the world see that the country's manufacturing industry is rich in talent and new ideas. For example, Nicola Coropulis, CEO of Poltrona Frau, says that his furniture brand is "bonded to the tradition of leather working" but has modernised its processes to combine newer machine technologies with handcrafting. He takes us through how he is improving his business.
• FULL REPORT ON PAGE 09



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Outside the box

ON THE FRINGES / MILAN

Away from the formality of Salone del Mobile's downtown showrooms, an experimental platform is exploring the limits of modern design. Meet the founders of Alcova.

Writer Ivan Carvalho

If pressed, many visitors to Milan during Salone del Mobile will admit that the most exciting things on their to-see list are found outside of the Rho fairgrounds. In part, this is down to savvy curators who understand that people don't come to the Lombard capital just to see shiny new products rolled out by established brands. Given Milan's reputation as a hub of design innovation, they want to be surprised and provoked too.

That's why many design aficionados will have Alcova on their itineraries this September.

An experimental platform that brings together design and art in unique venues across the city, it was founded by former *Domus* editor Joseph Grima, co-founder of Genoa-based architecture studio Space Caviar and creative director of Design Academy Eindhoven, and Valentina Ciuffi of design agency Studio Vedèt.

While other recently established Fuorisalone events – activities taking place outside of the fairground – revolve around a neighbourhood or site, Grima and Ciuffi are not interested in creating a new design

district. Instead they take a nomadic approach. "We seek out historic sites that are an integral part of the city's urban fabric," says Grima. "This environment is then interpreted by a collection of international and Italian designers. Our aim is to create a dialogue between the city and these sites through experimental design."

The first two editions of the event took place in 2018 and 2019, together attracting about 90,000 visitors. Alcova hosted designers, performances, talks and screenings, and a café at a former panettone factory. This year, the organisers have chosen a trio of abandoned 19th-century buildings in the Inganni area. These once provided services to a nearby military hospital and include an industrial laundry and a former nunnery, complete with a refectory, kitchens and a chapel.

Partially overrun by vegetation, the venue will be occupied by an eclectic assortment of projects. Architect India Mahdavi and the Geneva University of Art and Design will present a milk bar inspired by *A Clockwork Orange*. The London-based studio Agglomerati, which is known for its stone furniture, will show a limited-edition version of Fred Ganim's iconic round table, carved from a single block of Brazilian quartzite.

Alongside contributions from established design galleries, such as Milan's Nilufar, will be pieces from French homeware brand Trame, which celebrates traditional Mediterranean workmanship, including ceramic candle holders made by artisans in Calabria. The food artist Laila Gohar, known for edible still-life installations, will team up with Italy's Ciam, a company that builds high-end refrigeration systems.

There will be a marked-out route to follow to discover the three locations but Ciuffi believes that the magic of Alcova is in its spontaneity. "The most beautiful moments are unplanned," she says. "You get these alchemic moments by bringing together different people from a variety of backgrounds."

Grima is keen to stress that the pieces being brought to the venue aren't site-specific. "They have to try to adapt to the venue. The goal is to keep a balance between the historical location and its patina and the look of these new pieces we are introducing. We want to take people out of their comfort zone and not have just another generic venue that is always the same."

After the long hiatus of design events caused by the pandemic, the pair are eager to encourage socialising. Alcova will put on performances and serve drinks at a bar where people can unwind after product presentations in showrooms downtown. "An ephemeral magic emerges in locations like the ones we've chosen," says Grima. "We want to surprise visitors and these abandoned places that have a strong link to the city's history are great for this. The true value of a cultural event is directly proportional to its ability to show things that the public does not expect and that make people think outside the box. That's what Alcova does."

LASTING TREASURES

HIGHLIGHTS / MILAN

The most innovative works that are on display across Milan celebrate the timeless nature of good design.

By Ivan Carvalho

Alcova highlights the true breadth of the collectable design movement. And going by London-based studio Agglomerati's showcase of functional art objects made of stone at Salone, it's design that will stick around. "The idea is that if you use stone, you should respect the timeless qualities of the material to ensure that the object lasts forever," says Ciuffi.

Another highlight at Alcova comes courtesy of the Swiss Arts Council Pro Helvetia, which is promoting projects from 10 of the Alpine nation's design studios that are addressing problems in industries ranging from hospitality to healthcare. These include Sarah Hossli's Lotte chair, with its extended armrests that help the elderly to stand up.

Elsewhere, Clovis Grosbost and Emilien Jaury exhibit their Cane Lighting System, with its detachable lamps that can be suspended or affixed to walls to create light as needed for restaurants, and Studio Mist-o displays its FPT side table for Paola Zani.



FPT side table by Studio Mist-o for Paola Zani



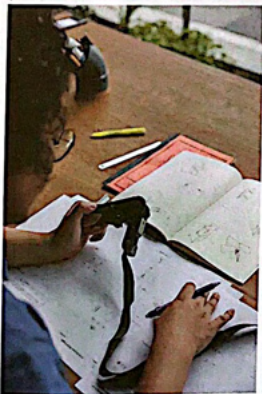
Lotte chair by Sarah Hossli



Cane pendant light by Clovis Grosbost and Emilien Jaury



Photographer: Sam Henry



Photographer: Sam Henry



(1) Valentina Ciuffi and Joseph Grima (2) Daisuke Motogi of DDAA, which is taking part in this year's event (3) Agglomerati preparing its raw materials (4) Its finished Brazilian quartzite table

"We seek out historic sites that are an integral part of the city's urban fabric. Our aim is to create a dialogue between the city and these spaces through experimental design"

Photographer: Sam Henry