

CW

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INDIA



Vivanta by Taj Gurgaon
Warner Wong Design

Jam Jar Diner
The Busride Designs

Design insight
Sanjay Mohe

Special feature

Modular office furniture

MILAN FURNITURE FAIR 2013: DESIGN MECCA

The Milan Furniture Fair or as the Italians would say, *Salone Internazionale Del Mobile*, is undoubtedly the hotspot on every international design industry's calendar. And needless to add, 2013 was no different! Hundreds of designers, thronged this largest international design event and put on display thousands of products across varied themes; utilitarian, sustainable, ridiculously expensive and even unusable conceptual pieces. CWI gives you a quick *dekko* of the event with an exciting roundup of new launches, eye-catching pieces and some superb designs by venerable names from the design world.

Kiki van Eijk: Master of Glass

Absolutely stunning was **Kiki van Eijk's** Drink! Eat! Rest! Fun! Think! Dream! Love! Crafted from the finest Murano glass, the series showcased seven sculptural glass objects symbolising the basics in life and juxtaposing them in a beautiful narration. By using a mix of different traditional techniques like watermark, mother of pearl, *incalmo* and mirroring them with a modern and personal approach, a layered story has been created. Another Kiki masterpiece, part of the allotment series, was a scarecrow, made of glass entirely. A personal totem, the protector of our home-grown food.



Jonas Lindvall for Wästberg: Winning Lamp

Jonas Lindvall's new creation, a table lamp for **Wästberg**, was infused with the same warmth as its predecessor, the Lindvall w124s pendant lamp. Available in solid copper, brass or painted steel with a glass protective shade and diffuser, the lamps exuded a warm glow when placed in any part of the room. The pendant lamps were inspired by its original archetypal predecessors – the oil lamp or the kerosene lamp or even candle sticks. Simplistic in design, the lamps attracted quite a few eyeballs.





Emeco : Tubular Art

Presented at Salone Internazionale del Mobile, the Parrish collection of chairs and tables by **Konstantin Grcic** for **Emeco** was originally created for **Herzog and de Meuron's** barn-like Parrish Art Museum. Completed last autumn, the pieces were made from tubular recycled aluminium, held in place under the tractor-inspired seat by a component with six connecting points referred to as 'the heart'. The range included a lounge chair and side chair plus tables in two heights, made of sandblasted aluminium with clear, red or black finishes.

Bouroullec Brothers: Timeworn Illusion

French brothers **Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec's** unique Steelwood chair was a radical combination of two very conventional materials: steel and wood. Aimed at attaining an ornamental patina over years of use, the Steelwood chair is intended to preserve the illusion of timeworn delicacy. It was available in three overall painted finishes—red, black, white—and in two versions that displayed the natural wood—beech and white, beech and black. The chairs were presented at the Milan fair alongside an aluminium sideboard for Italian furniture brand Magis.



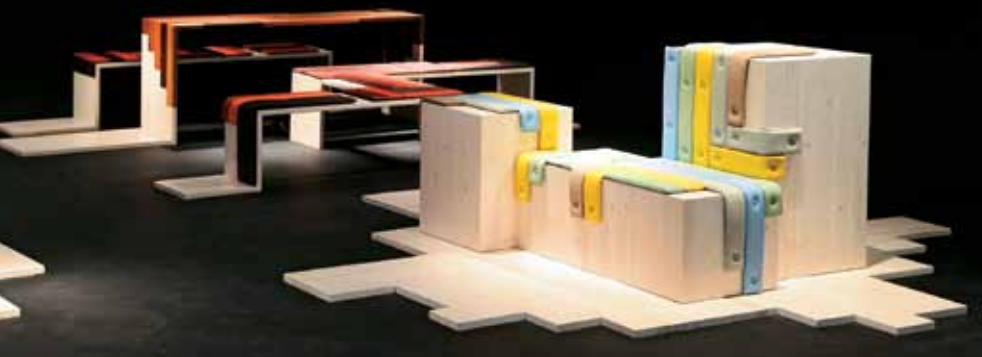
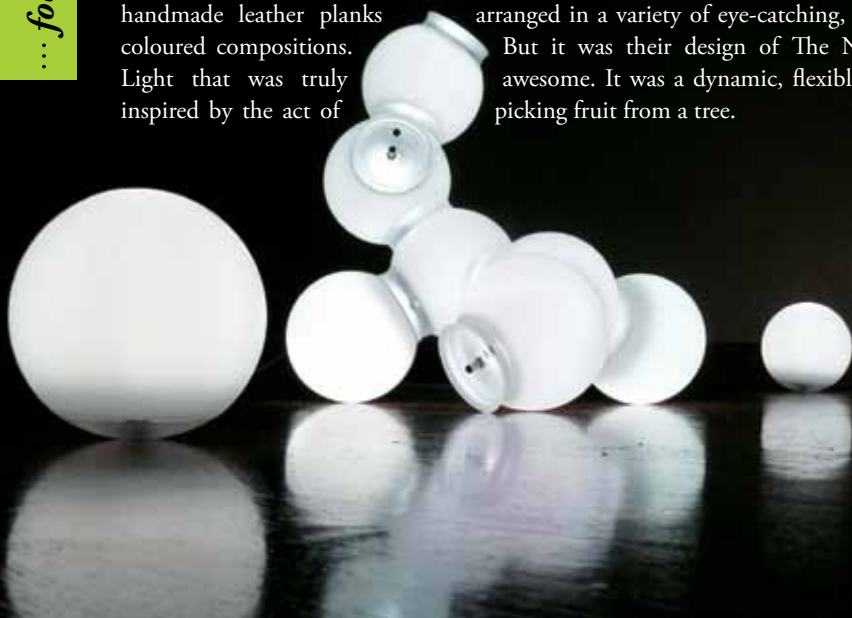
Kettal: Spanish Rhapsody

British designer **Jasper Morrison** has created the Park life and Village collection for Spanish brand **Kettal**. Park Life (seen below) was a complete family of outdoor furniture comprising tables, chairs, sofa and lounge. The lightweight pieces could be easily stacked for transport and winter storage and are designed for ergonomic support. Pussel (left) is an object made from high-temperature ceramic and blown glass, using entirely traditional methods with painstaking detailing and finishing. Designed by **Xavier Mañosa**, it began as a game between him and his father; together they created a ceramic modular shape that could stack together mixing different colours. This game, measuring a metre and half, was mutated over time by Mañosa, who drew reference from children's puzzle books. The result was there for all to see...and admire!



Maarten De Ceulaer: Hide Love

Maarten De Ceulaer's The Leather Collection for Nilufar showcased an interesting mix of Desk of Briefcases, Pile of Suitcases and the Low Chest of Suitcases. These pieces, though colourful, were luxurious and sophisticated and at the same time, carried the dynamic vibe of modern nomads. Transformations, designed for Fendi, juxtaposes lacquered wood boards and tree stumps with exquisitely made handmade leather planks arranged in a variety of eye-catching, multi-coloured compositions. But it was their design of The Nomad light that was truly awesome. It was a dynamic, flexible light picking fruit from a tree.



Tom Rygalik: Dumbo and the Bull

With names like that, Tom Rygalik's designs were bound to raise a few laughs. But the designs made for Moroso—a rounded chair Dumbo and stool named Bull were interesting to say the least. Dumbo was a solid wood chair with rounded steam-bent armrests that wrap around the backrest and seat to give additional structural support. Bull was a bar stool of tool-like character and utility. Its durable and rigid two-legged metal structure was supported by an intersecting single element, that acted as both footrest and as back legs. The cantilevered seat added to its radical expression. Real smart!



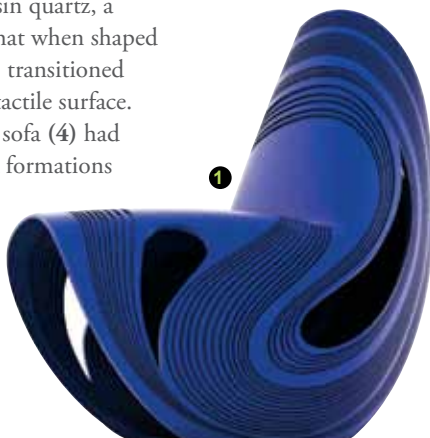
Marsotto Edizioni: Black Marble Beauty

The new 'Just Black' collection by **Marsotto Edizioni** was a culmination of great minds that came together to craft products out of single black Marquina marble. **Claesson Koivisto Rune's** Soya is a tray table in black polished finish. Ipe quadro and Ipe tondo by **James Irvine** are round and square side tables. Other designers who contributed to this collection are **Jasper Morrison, Konstantin Grcic, Maddalena Casadei, Naoto Fukasawa, Ross Lovegrove, Thomas Sandell**. Undoubtedly, black is beautiful.



Zaha Hadid: Multiple Art

Once again, **Zaha Hadid** had some awe-inspiring products on offer. The Kuki Chair (1) was a playful, sculptural volume generated from a single surface that follows simple rhythms, curvatures and folds. Avia and Aria lights (2) were a suspended centrepiece which gently illuminated its environment with light dramatically cast through its sculptural fins. The Serac bench (3) had been developed in resin quartz, a tough and durable material that when shaped into a more curvaceous form, transitioned into a softer, more fluid and tactile surface. The sinuous shape of Zephyr sofa (4) had been inspired by natural rock formations shaped by erosion. A lacquered finish applied to Zephyr's structural elements highlighted every subtle nuance of its composition.





Inkiostro Bianco: Wall Art

Inkiostro Bianco, a brand new company specialising in the production of artistic and customisable wallpaper, made its debut at the Milan Design Week. Inkiostro Bianco offered three collections: Fairy Ink and Ink Rouge and a new collection, result of the cutting-edge technology applied to graphics. The Ink Rouge, signed by Saturno Buttò, was a limited edition with a bold flavour. It is characterised by a seemingly obsessive centrality and symmetry of portraits and monumental compositions. Taking inspiration from Flemish paintings, surrealism and fairy tales, the Fairy Ink offered a childlike zest to imagination.

Sebastian Herkner: Unusual Inspirations

Sebastian Herkner displayed some interesting products at the Milan fair this year. They included a Bell coffee table, bell lights for **Classicon**, Banjooli Chairs and Coat Sofa for **Moroso**. The lightweight and easy-to-move Coat Sofa (below) had no supports at its base, but is steady, resting directly and firmly on the floor. The concept for the piece came from the hosiery industry, specifically from the non-slip soles used for children's socks. Another interesting piece by Herkner was a Banjooli chair made by woven threads normally used for fishing nets.





Visionnaire: Italian Influences

Visionnaire, the uber chic Italian luxury furniture brand unveiled a spectacular collection of products at the fair. The theme and inspiration behind 'Visionnaire' collection came from the home of a collector where every piece in the collection is the result of artistic collaboration and inspiration, whether sculptural, pictorial, literary or cinematographic and moreover, designed with sartorial mastery.



Moroso: Design Platter

Undoubtedly, the most exciting display came from the house of **Moroso** that presented an exciting range of furniture and products from renowned design houses and by famous designers. A quick list:



Oasis by Atelier Oi: A sofa with character, thanks to the play of fabric. Like a turban, the fabric was held in place by the metal frame and lay like a veil over the seat padding. For a different kind of look, all one needs to do is change the fabric every season.




Kenny by Raw Edges: This curved chair was made using a simple folded strip; a singular linear strip had been folded in origami methods to create a three-dimensional surface. Yet another inspiration!

Glider from Ron Arad: was a part of his American collection that included designs inspired by the masterful steel which can oscillate between being a rigid, supporting structure, a springy elastic band and sometimes a simple folded sheet.



Bikini Island by Werner Aisslinger: Simplicity, quality and the art of collage were the basic concepts and lifestyle mantra that led Aisslinger to create this quirky modular design. It comprises a low daybed combined with circular seats or stand-alone pieces among various other components of 'island' of sorts.



In retrospect, Milan Furniture Fair has never had a dull moment. Even in dismal economic times, the brands and designers put up a fabulous show. We can hardly wait with bated breaths for 2014 to unveil another extravagant fair full of inspirational designs and quirky eclectic collections. 



Clarissa Hood by Patricia Urquiola: The Clarissa family of chairs had a characteristic seatback which embraces the sitter and partially conceals them with a 'hood'. Regally crafted.

Cradle by Benjamin Hubert: This was a unique blend of two typologies of seating – a net structured hammock and a conventional upholstered lounge chair. A seen-to-be-believed venture.



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