

[THIS WEEK](#)

[LAST WEEK](#)

[BACK IN STOCK](#)

[THE ESSENTIALS](#)

[EXCLUSIVES](#)


[THE TRENDS](#)

THE JOURNAL

## SPECIAL FEATURE: SALONE DEL MOBILE

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[INSIDE THIS WEEK'S ISSUE](#) 

[NEXT STORY](#) 

SPECIAL FEATURE

## SALONE DEL MOBILE

Ten next-level pieces from this year's Milan  
interior design fair

*(Click the arrows to find out more)*



**T**he Salone del Mobile, held in Milan each April, is without any doubt the biggest event on the global design calendar. Leading Italian and international brands, both established and start-ups, select the city to present their novelty in sofas, tables, chairs, lamps, kitchens and accessories to the global design community, who jet in to admire, judge, photograph and order from all over the world. That's 357,000 architects, designers, buyers, critics and museum directors from around 160 countries. So integral to the city of Milan is the fair that any available space is rented out, every single hotel bed filled and not one resident in the city wouldn't know it was Salone week.

This year's fair had a positive and upbeat mood, thanks partly to the spring sunshine that replaced the usual April showers. Although the fair's participants are fully international with French, Dutch, German, Swiss, British, Japanese and American brands transporting their news to show in Milan, the household names of the Italian furniture world such as Kartell, Molteni, Minotti, B&B Italia, Poltrona Frau, Cassina and the like are forever present and an integral part of the proceedings.

The Italian fashion brands are never shy of participating in the greatest design show on earth, Bottega Veneta, Armani/Casa, Versace Home, Fendi Casa and Missoni Home all launched additions to their home "universes", as collections are now known. Emilio Pucci joined forces with mosaic masters Bisazza to launch a new range of mosaics in historic Pucci designs, Prada presented a new range of colourful velvet CloverLeaf sofas especially made by Verner Panton's Verpan (sadly only for its stores and not for sale), and Salvatore Ferragamo joined forces with Molteni and designer Mr Rodolfo Dordoni to celebrate the genius that is the work of Mr Giò Ponti. Trussardi, meanwhile, launched a new casa collection, Etro opened a new home store in the Brera district, and Milanese leather goods house Valextra celebrated its 24 ore briefcase, which was the inaugural winner of the most prestigious prize in design: the now-60-year-old Compasso d'Oro.

Click through the gallery, *above*, to see 10 designs that impressed us the most.



## ANIMAL HOUSE

by

MARNI

This year Marni's design and charity project, produced by women ex-convicts from Colombia, introduced Animal House, what they call a caravanseraí, made up of fun giraffes, ostriches, rabbits and flamingoes. The launch provided an upbeat and fun interruption to the otherwise very serious furniture fair. These sit somewhere between the kitsch and naïf, and as this writer can verify, are hard to resist. They are also highly collectable as there are only eight of each species produced and no two are alike.

[marni.com](http://marni.com)



JASPER MORRISON  
*for*  
KETTAL

The leading Spanish outdoor furniture producer introduced the Kettal Village chair by British industrial designer Mr Jasper Morrison. Produced in a lightweight, aluminium frame, it's easy to move about and stacks when not in use. The understated design is a subtle update on the classic genre of outdoor seating and is typical of Mr Morrison's work, all soft curves and pared-down forms. A pleasing, functional chair that will age gracefully, available in a variety of colours.

[kettal.com](http://kettal.com)





ALDO BAKKER  
*for*  
GEORG JENSEN LIVING

This pitcher, container for sugar and pourer for salt are fashioned from polished stainless steel by Dutch designer Mr Aldo Bakker for Danish brand Georg Jensen. They are typical Bakker, sculptural, abstract and connected more by purpose than by design, yet it's the first time he has worked in steel. The vessel has a spout that will reduce the flow to a trickle and an oversized spherical lid that invites touch. The salt cellar and sugar castor share the design language, the latter has a spherical lid that directs the flow of the sugar.

[georgjensen.com](http://georgjensen.com)



ROBERTO LAZZERONI  
*for*  
CECCOTTI COLLEZIONI

Pisa-based Ceccotti Collezioni is a master with wood.

This cabinet called Neverfull High is by Italian designer Mr Roberto Lazzeroni, known for his discreet and contemporary classic style. Crafted from American walnut and lined in blond maple, it's been specially fitted out as a bar, with pull-out trays and shelves. All Ceccotti Collezioni pieces are made to order, so you can have it specified to fit your own set of stemware and favourite tipples.

[ceccotticollezioni.it](http://ceccotticollezioni.it)





## FORMAFANTASMA

for

GALLERY LIBBY SELLERS

This pair of tables form a part of De Natura Fossilium – a new body of work that “investigates the culture of lava in the Mount Etna and Stromboli regions of Sicily”. Messrs Andrea Trimachi and Simone Farresin of Studio Formafantasma explored melting, blowing, casting, milling and even weaving lava from two of the last active volcanoes in Europe and combined some of these processes to produce furniture and objects with unusual but highly pleasing results.

[libbysellers.com](http://libbysellers.com)



TOMAS MAIER  
*for*  
BOTTEGA VENETA

Bottega Veneta's home collection has been built over time with care since Mr Tomas Maier took the creative reins of the brand in 2001. The house presents new products only every two years, which adds importance to this year's additions which include table-top pieces in new dark masculine tones. An antique, dark brunito finish on the silver flatware with its intrecciato-engraved handles was achieved by combining rhodium and ruthenium. Also in a smoky hue, was the new stemware with butterfly seals on the glass.

[bottegaveneta.com](http://bottegaveneta.com)







## COLLAR SEATING BY RODOLFO DORDONI

*for*

MINOTTI

Italian producer Minotti is a leader in *imbottito* or upholstered furniture such as sofas and seating, under the art direction of Milan-based architect Rodolfo Dordoni. Collar's main design element is its clever foldable back and side rest, allowing a variety of seating options. The collar is wide and strong enough for perching, which encourages intimate conversations. It's shown in olive mohair velvet, a key fabric in interiors right now.

[minotti.com](http://minotti.com)



JEAN-MICHEL FRANK  
*for*  
HERMÈS

French master designer decorator Mr Jean-Michel Frank called upon Hermès in 1924 to produce some of his leather furniture. In 2010 Hermès reached an agreement to re-edit some of his more emblematic work including seating, sofas and screens in straw marquetry from the 1920s. This year it added a console, armchair and bench handcrafted from wrought iron and patinated bridle leather. This exquisite little group comes numbered and limited to an edition of up to 100 pieces.

[hermes.com](http://hermes.com)





GIÒ PONTI  
*for*  
MOLTENI

One of Italy's most important post-war architects and designers, Mr Giò Ponti designed the D.270.2 foldable chair in 1970 and today Molteni has reissued it with the co-operation of his heirs and estate. The maestro described it as "a new wide chair with a narrow and foldable seat", claiming the small seat and ample backrest was the key to sitting comfortably. Today as we live in smaller city spaces, an added benefit is the chairs take up less room than most armchairs without compromising comfort.

[molteni.it](http://molteni.it)



## ARCHIVES BY STUDIO JOB

for  
NLXL

Mr Job Smeets and Ms Nynke Tynagel of Amsterdam- and Antwerp-based Studio Job have joined forces with contemporary wallpaper maker NLXL to launch "Archives", a series of seven wallpaper patterns developed from their lavish, highly decorative work over the past 14 years, in a presentation described by Smeets as "overwhelming and in your face". Wallpaper has had a bit of a comeback of late, however these are for "advanced decorators" so perhaps choose wisely before hanging in the kids' bedrooms.

[nlxl.com](http://nlxl.com)





VINCENZO DE COTIIS  
*for*  
PROGETTO DOMESTICO

Milan-based architect and designer Mr Vincenzo de Cotiis opened the doors to a new Galleria De Cotiis in Milan's Via Carlo de Cristoforis, where he presented additions to his limited-edition Progetto Domestico line of furniture and lamps. This desk, DC1404, references both the 1930s and 1980s and is crafted from hand-oxidised silver-plated brass and ebonised wood. The central shelf extends to take a computer, which can slide away from view when out of use. The kick in the shape gives it loads of personality.

[progettodomestico.it](http://progettodomestico.it)