

Since 1928

Search Domus...

 Like 386,833 people like this.

domus

Italiano
Sign up / Log in

CHECK OUT  **domus**
DIGITAL EDITION 

[Architecture](#) / [Design](#) / [Art](#) / [Products](#) / [Domus Archive](#) / [Shop](#)

Contents [News](#) / [Interviews](#) / [Op-ed](#) / [Photo-essays](#) / [Specials](#) / [Reviews](#) / [Video](#) / [From the archive](#) / [Competitions](#)

[Magazine](#) [Current issue](#) / [Local editions](#)

Network [Your profile](#) / [RSS](#) / [facebook](#) / [twitter](#) / [instagram](#) / [pinterest](#) / [LOVES](#)



Author

[Elena Sommariva](#)

Published

15 April 2011

Location

Milan

Sections

[Salone-2011](#)

Keywords

[Botanica](#), [FormaFantasma](#), [Rossana Orlandi](#),
[Salone 2011](#)

Network

[Like on Facebook](#)

[Share on Twitter](#)

[Pin to Pinterest](#)

—
What would have happened if there had never been any oil? What would have been the future of polymers? These are the questions raised by Andrea Trimarchi and Simone Farresin, known by the pseudonym FormaFantasma since 2009. Andrea and Simone adopted a historical-scientific approach when they accepted the invitation from the Neapolitan foundation Plart, which focuses on the restoration of and research into plastic artworks, and its curator Marco Petroni to provide a personal take on plastics and explore the origins of natural polymers.

The two designers sought out, retrieved and tested in new combinations a number of materials (mainly of vegetable origin) such as rosin, dammar gum, copal (now used by amber forgers), natural rubber, natural shellac (derived from insect excrement) and bois durci, a material made of animal blood (or egg white) mixed with sawdust. All common materials in the 18th and 19th centuries, pre-oil times, they were used to create a sophisticated collection of objects with a specific aim – to change the general perception of plastic. "This is, however, no eco-friendly stance. Our project is a tribute to plastic", explains Simone Farresin, because it has changed from being the material of the future to the most glaring example of the failure of consumerism and mass production. FormaFantasma gives no answers to the questions behind the research, preferring to stimulate more questions. The pieces in the collection belong to the foundation and will become a limited edition of 12 pieces each. ES



↑ In Botanica, plastics are used in an attempt to develop a new post-industrial aesthetic.



↑ Dammar, Copal, Rosin, Natural Rubber, Shellac and Bois Durci are some of the materials investigated by FormaFantasma.



↑ The objects of the collection are characterised by organic details and plant-like forms.





↑ Most of these polymers are extracted from plants.



↑ The objects displayed in the Botanica collection are designed as if the oil-based era never took place.