

WHITE FALL

New York-based design studio Snarkitecture created this cave-like installation in Spazio Erbe, Milan for fashion brand COS by cutting strips out of more than 100,000 metres of translucent white fabric.

Each year with Salone del Mobile, Milan turns into an epicentre of design. We interviewed six Indian designers to get an overview of the Milan Design Week. Our power-packed trend forecast follows, as well as an introduction to five designers and firms making waves internationally

WRITER & STYLIST SONALI THAKUR

AD perspective



Prateek Jain and Gautam Setb, the creative minds behind luxury lighting brand Klove Studio, spoke to us about their favourites from this year's Milan Design Week

PHOTOGRAPHER THIBAULT MONTAMAT

Tell us about a lighting trend that stood out for you?

Kinetic installations-we [have noticed] this trend coming in for some time now. Earlier, it was [mostly] visible at art shows, but now mainstream design products and objects show some level of technology and movement.

Name five brands whose collections you liked. We spent our day at Euroluce—the lighting fair that takes place every two years and our favourites were Michael



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(Clockwise from top) Gautam Seth and Prateek Jain at the Salone del Mobile fair. 'Curtain' lighting system by Arik Levy for Vibia. 'Zeus' ceiling lamp by Ivan Paradinovic for Italamp. Seth and Jain at the Barovier&Toso stand.





'Crystal Ice' carpet by Marcel Wanders for Moooi, available at Lightbox. 'Serena T' table lamps by Patricia Urquiola for Flos, available at Firefly.

An independent design consultant and a managing partner at Red Lion Design, Elsie Nanji's Milan trip was filled with interesting exhibits—including United Nude's collaboration with renowned designers

Which brands or collections did you like?

The new collections from Tom Dixon, Vitra, Moroso, Moooi, Artemide, Luceplan, and Cassina, as well as art and design objects at Rossana Orlandi, beautiful fabrics and displays by Missoni, Naoto Fukasawa's collection for Magis, and all my old favourites—Kartell, Boffi Kitchens and more.

Did any new products or brands catch your attention? The 3D-printed shoes for United Nude, particularly 'Ilabo' by Ross Lovegrove; lighting by Michael Anastassiades; and Muuto's New Nordic collection by leading Scandinavian designers.

Did you find any of the exhibitions or concepts particularly exciting?

Be Open's The Garden of Wonders—a journey through fragrances with sculptural packaging by designers and artists;





'Plane' pendant lamps and chandelier at Tom Dixon's The Cinema exhibition. Nanji at the exhibition. Nanji's Milan Design Week survival kit. The 'Mendori' lamp from the IN-EI collection by Issey Miyake+Reality Lab

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rom abor (Prom above) 'Ilabo' shoes designed by Ross Lovegrove for United Nude. Nanji with Lovegrove at the Re-inventing Shoes Project exhibition by United Nude and 3D Systems

Louis Vuitton's Objets Nomades collection inside the Palazzo Bocconi; the giant photographic backgrounds for the Moooi exhibition; the Snarkitecture-designed pavilion for fashion brand COS; Tom Dixon with The Cinema; and the Solis Silos installation by Viabizzuno.

What's on your wish list from what you saw at the Milan Design Week?

The Issey Miyake lamp from Artemide; the Muuto 'Fiber' swivel chair; Hermès art deco crockery; and Fritz Hansen chairs—all for specific clients.

What are your essentials for surviving the design week? My headphones; an iPad; two iPhones to record photo references (with my Indian and my Milan SIM cards); an international charger; my wallet (with cash and credit cards); my hat and dark glasses; my running shoes for my morning run at Parco Sempione; and a bag to carry all the catalogues I collect over the week!





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AD50 architects Sandeep Khosla and Amaresh Anand chose to stick to the Euroluce pavilions at the Salone del Mobile. Khosla spoke to us about the lighting design trends that they discovered

What new lighting design trends did you notice at the fair? Advancements in blown-glass lamps; LED technology making architectural lights slimmer, sleeker, sexier; metamorphic lights that can change shape as well as modulate light. At Euroluce, smaller, family-owned brands showed bigger design developments. Bigger brands disappointed by just tweaking their old collections.

List some brands or collections that you liked.

I. Bocci: I enjoyed the blown-glass pendant collection by Canadian brand Bocci. What particularly fascinated me were the cloud-shaped pendant lights-molten glass poured into heat-resistant fabric pillows; **2.** Martinelli Luce: The highlight for me was the reissue of the classic 1965 'Pipistrello' lamp by Gae Aulenti in finishes like gold and copper; 3. Kinetura: A very unique lighting concept—it had lights that could physically transform when touched and morph into another shape, creating wonderful and subtle light modulations; 4. Vibia: Brilliant collection-particularly the 'Wireflow' pendants







(Clockwise from left) Ritika Dhamija at Nilufar Depot; tables from the Giò Ponti Translated By Martino Gamper project at Nilufar Gallery. A lamp from the Progetto Non Finito collection, and a table and carpet from the Palmador 2015 collection by Dimorestudio, available at Dimore Gallery.

Sport I arup+Ritz Ritika Dhamii

Co-founder of the brand Iqrup+Ritz, Ritika Dhamija visited Nilufar Depot and EDIT by designjunction where she found the 1960s and 70s making a comeback

What trends did you notice during the Milan Design Week?

I. Italian design has gone retro! In true Italian style, there was a glamorous dialogue of the past, present and future. Upholstery in deep-coloured, rich, velvet fabrics and sculptural brass lighting were juxtaposed with contemporary pieces. The straight lines of the past few years were replaced with the curves of the 1960s and 70s. The collections at Dimorestudio, Nilufar Depot and Baxter were beautiful examples of this mood.

2. The trend of bringing the outdoors inside could be seen in full swing in Milan this year. I particularly liked Damien Langlois-Meurrine's 'Totem Floral' designed for Louis Vuitton to display

'Loka' armchair and 'Opto' folding screen by Lorenz*Kaz, 'Sushi Kart' by

Lorenza Bozzoli for Colé.

potted plants. Planters and vertical gardens accented many of the exhibits, galleries and displays.

3. Statement mirrors, lights and tables took the form of geometric shapes in different materials and bright colours.

List five brands or collections that you liked.

1. A nostalgic and surprising collection, Palmador 2015 by Dimorestudio blew me away. Every piece was artfully curated and designed by Emiliano Salci and Britt Moran.

 Martino Gamper has reinvented, repossessed and recreated furniture by Giò Ponti, bringing it firmly into the modern context.
I always love the collections at Ginger & Jagger and Munna. Ginger & Jagger's new 'Pearl' wall lamp is absolutely stunning.
Norwegian studio Morten & Jonas launched a playful and colourful collection this year. I really liked the mix-and-match element of the 'Hoff' modular sofa.

5. The 'Transience' mirrors by Lex Pott and David Derksen for the Transnatural Label are a great example of where a unique process can have grand results. The different colours in the mirrors are produced by different states of oxidization.

Did you find any stores or concepts particularly exciting?

No trip to Milan is complete without a visit to Nina Yashar's gallery. Her newest exhibition space, Nilufar Depot combines industrial architecture with a galleried structure to pay homage to the city's opera house, Teatro alla Scala. Her blend of historic with contemporary, local with international, is in line with our design philosophy at Iqrup+Ritz. London-based furniture designer Max Lamb's retrospective—featuring the 42 chairs he has designed since 2006—was very thought-provoking. Each chair was arranged as part of a larger inward-facing circle. The exhibition explored the different materials of the chairs and their production processes.

What are your essentials for surviving the design week?

I can't go anywhere without my iPad and portable power bank. I always keep a few notebooks handy to scribble on; at the moment I'm carrying a red Moleskine and a William Morris notebook from the V&A museum. As a treat for myself, I packed the Aromatherapy Associates travel kit of oils for much needed hot baths after all the walking at Salone del Mobile. My toiletry bag was filled with dissolvable Berocca tablets for a good vitamin boost, my trusted Eve Lom 50SPF sunscreen, a Diptyque perfume and Fendi sunglasses.

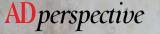


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Ritika with Iqrup Dhamija—her mother (and Iqrup+Ritz co-founder)—at the Colé stand, which was part of the EDIT by designjunction exhibition in Milan.

(Clockwise from above) The 'Pearl' wall lamp from the Earth To Earth collection by Ginger & Jagger. 'Transience' mirror by Lex Pott & David Derksen for Transnatural. 'Hoff' modular sofa by Kioshi Yamamoto and Morten & Jonas. 'Alma' chair by Draga & Aurel for Baxter.

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(Clockwise from left) Gunjan Gupta with her 'Origami Rock' dining table at Era Studio Apartment-Gallery; a shot of the table; 'Atollo' table by Massimiliano Locatelli presented at the Nilufar Depot.



We followed Gunjan Gupta on a design expedition across the galleries of Milan, including Era Studio Apartment-Gallery, where she exhibited the latest addition to her Rock series of tables

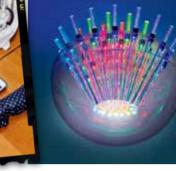
What trends did you notice at the design week? It was a great year with the Milan Expo serving as a backdrop. This year saw a lot of celebration of the great masters of Italian design and architecture, especially from the Memphis and Archizoom periods. Their influences were seen everywhere at the Fiera [Milano Convention Centre] by all the major brands and galleries in the city like Era Studio Apartment-Gallery, Nilufar, Dilmos and Dimore Galleries showing original vintage pieces or hosting retrospectives of their works.

'Book' mirror wall from the Palmador Collection by Dimorestudio, available at Dimore Gallery.





(Left to right) Gupta's Milan Design Week survival kit, The 'Spectral Light' hanging lamp by Phillippe Rahm for Artemide.



List five brands or collections you liked.

- I. Nendo's new collection for Glas Italia was just fabulous.2. The Objet Nomades collection by well-known designers—including
- the Campana brothers, and Barber & Osgerby—was quite cool. 3. Von Pelt at Rossana Orlandi was interesting, particularly in terms of material exploration.
- 4. The new Artemide lights were fabulous.

5. Droog's hardware project this year was tongue-in-cheek and quite pertinent

What's on your wish list from what you saw at the Milan Design Week?

The Massimiliano Locatelli set of tables and chairs from Nilufar Gallery, Michael Anastassiades's new lights, and Nendo's tables!

Did any new brands or designers catch your attention? Marta Sala Editions and Dimorestudio were truly amazing—with an artisanal perspective on Italian manufacturing and materiality.

What are your essentials for surviving the design week?

It's the survival of the fittest during Salone week in Milan! I have been doing this for 10 years and have realized that time and footwear are the most precious and never enough. Therefore, I always carry an extra pair of shoes (my heels), as your day outfit has to turn into cocktail wear to attend all the opening parties. I also carry some light trendy Indian jewellery to dress up an outfit in addition to my make-up and perfume. As for organizing myself for the week, I hold the Interni guide as my holy bible, as it has all my jottings of must-dos in it. The other things are a diary, business cards, umbrella and phone charger. Uber is a must-have in Milan as cabs are impossible and walking can cover only so much!

Can you tell us a little bit about the collection that you presented this year?

I presented a new 'Origami Rock' dining table as part of the Rock artworks previously showcased at Design Miami in Basel. It's a set of four large tables that are very sculptural and very light, although they appear to be monolithic.



Gupta looking at the 'Oslo Blue Meteorite' table by Von Pelt displayed at the Spazio Rossana Orlandi.

> *(Clockwise from above)* Gupta with Rossana Orlandi at the latter's gallery. The 'Window' table by Nendo for Glas Italia. The Construct Me! hardware collection by Studio Droog. The 'Cocoon' swing by Fernando & Humberto Campana for Louis Vuitton.



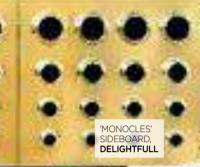
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Copper, brass and bronze were a favourite this year, while red was the colour of the season. Some brands paid homage to the Memphis-Milano movement that was led by Ettore Sottsass, while others churned out zoomorphic objects, ombre pieces and statement mirrors

'CORA' PENDANT LAMP BY KARL ZAHN, **ROLL & HILL**

'TABLE JOY' TABLEWARE BY ALDO CIBIC, PAOLA C.



'LAPO' FIGURE (GOLD/WHITE) BY CÉDRIC RAGOT, **BITOSSI**

CERAMICHE

'POM POM' TABLE LAMP BY MATTEO CIBIC,

CALLIGARIS

METAL

'HAUMEA' COFFEE TABLES BY MASSIMO CASTAGNA GALOTTI&RADICE 'PENSANDO 'COPYCAT' TABLE LAMP BY MICHAEL ANASTASSIADES, AD ACAPULCO' CHAIR BY TABLE JOY: SANTI CALECA, HAUMEA: MATTEO IMBRIANI IVDESIGN, DE FLOS, FIREFLY CASTELLI 'GEAR' PORCELAIN VASES BY PHILIPPE 12 BESTENHEIDER, DRIADE 11 'NAKED' DESK AND CHAIR BY NIKA 'CATLIN' COFFEE TABLE BY RODOLFO DORDONI, **MINOTTI** ZUPANC ROSSANA

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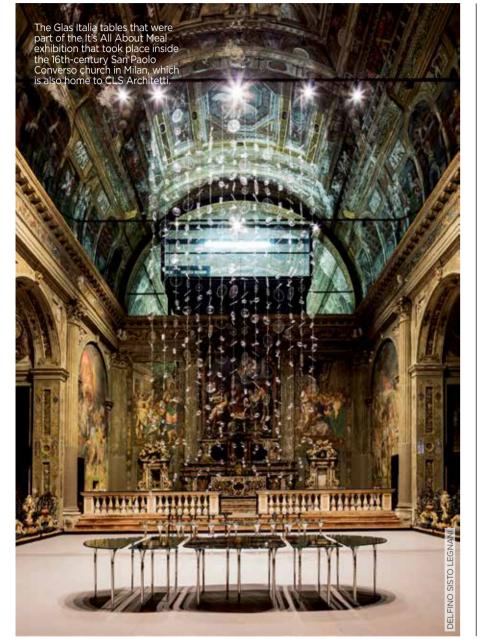


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FIVE IN FOCUS

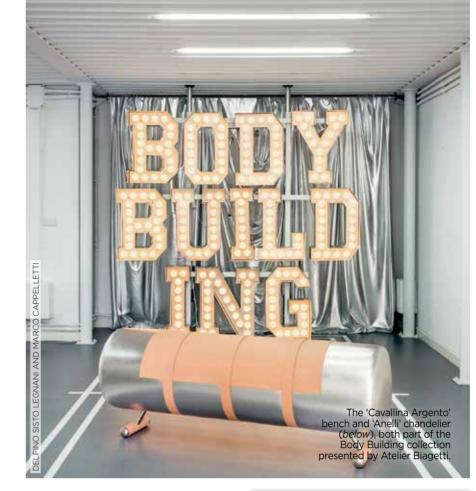


MASSIMILIANO LOCATELLI GLAS ITALIA

Massimiliano Locatelli from CLS Architetti has designed the Specchio Di Venere collection of sculptural tables and consoles for Glas Italia. These glass tables can be assembled to form a larger table, but are also sold individually. They are available in four versions: extra clear glass, extra clear mirrored glass, tinted glass using an internal film, and cast glass with an antique silver finish.

RANJAN BORDOLOI **CAPPELLINI NEXT**

An IIT Guwahati graduate, Ranjan Bordoloi was among the three designers selected by Giulio Cappellini for the Cappellini Next project, which puts a spotlight on production techniques alongside the craft component of products by designers. Bordoloi created the 'Pitoloi' armchair with a grey-stained rattan frame and a brass shell-like seat that involved the technique of metal hand-beating.



ALBERTO BIAGETTI & ARTIST LAURA BALDASSARI **ATELIER BIAGETTI**

The Milanese duo of designer Alberto Biagetti and artist Laura Baldassari, of Atelier Biagetti, have designed a collection that has all the bearings of an ultra-modern gym. With a unique sense of humour, they reimagined traditional gym equipment—turning gymnastic rings into a chandelier, a pommel horse into a bench, and dumb-bells into a table base, among a whole host of products.









MATTEO CIBIC Scarlet Splendour

The launch of two collections at Spazio Rossana Orlandi—one of Milan's hottest design galleries—marked the beginning for Kolkata-based brand Scarlet Splendour. Co-founders Ashish Bajoria and Suman Kanodia wanted to clearly explore the luxury segment with their sense of eclectic design. Italian designer Matteo Cibic is the creator behind the Vanilla Noir and Luce Naga collections, one inspired by Indian handicrafts like bone-and-horn inlay work, while the other was inspired by the fluidity of a serpent's movements.

'FNDRA

FIAM A multi-faceted industrial designer, Satyendra Pakhalé has designed a clever, elegant and innovative bent-glass table for Fiam that seems almost invisible. The 'Kayo Extensible' table is composed of a seamless mechanism that helps the glass table extend into a longer one, turning into a communal table any time the need arises.

PAKHAI É



'RAIDHO' DINING TABLE, 'TIWAY' CHAISE LONGUE, BOTH BY STEVE LEUNG, VISIONNAIRE

a da

'SEYMOUR' SEATING SYSTEM BY RODOLFO DORDONI, MINOTTI

NOTEWORTHY

AD takes a look at some of the top Italian brands and bandpicks pieces from their latest classical and contemporary collections showcased at the Salone del Mobile



'BORGIA' ARMCHAIR, 'BROADWAY POOLS STLI' DOOR HANDLES, **SICIS**

'OLÀ' SUSPENSION LAMP BY FLY DESIGN STUDIO, **MASIERO**

MANUA PROPERTY

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'OSKAR' DINING TABLE BY VINCENT VAN DUYSEN, **B&B ITALIA**





