



Metropolis's 7 Top Picks from Salone del Mobile

There was no shortage of beautiful and cutting-edge design at this year's Salone del Mobile, which just concluded in Milan.

by Lila Allen



This new collection of furniture and lighting from the New York-based studio [Apparatus](#) attempts to reconcile personal history, cultural memory, and contemporary form. Titled Act III, its five pieces were conceptualized by Apparatus creative director Gabriel Hendifar, a first-generation American from an Iranian family. Growing up, Hendifar's experience of Iranian culture was limited to the ephemeral media of food, storytelling, and music. With Act III, Hendifar creates something new and concrete from history and memory, referencing Iranian cultural regalia like Berber jewelry and the Tombak drum.

Courtesy Paola Pansini

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For nearly a week each April, Milan becomes the center of the design universe as 343,000 architects, designers, journalists, sales reps, and enthusiasts descend upon the city for Fuorisalone, also known as Milan Design Week. While the vast majority of these visitors roam the vast acreage of display booths at the [Salone del Mobile](#) furniture fair, the rest of the city has its share of installations popping up in cafes, bars, showrooms, stores—even the street.

While you'd be hard-pressed to visit all of the promising events happening during [Fuorisalone](#), here's what kept *Metropolis* editors busy—and inspired—at this year's events, which wrapped on the 22nd.



Under the artistic direction of Piero Lissoni, the Italian wood-veneer company [ALPI](#) is quietly reinventing the possibilities of all-wood surface treatments. This year, ALPI partnered with designers including GamFratesi to bring to market veneers that reveal and enhance wood's natural qualities or explode them entirely: Take, for instance, the Cloud model, which introduces a Morse code-like graphic element to the smooth, reconstituted-wood material. (The brand describes the collection as impressionistic, but to this writer, the look is more Susan Kare than Claude Monet.)

