

designingways

ISSUE 291

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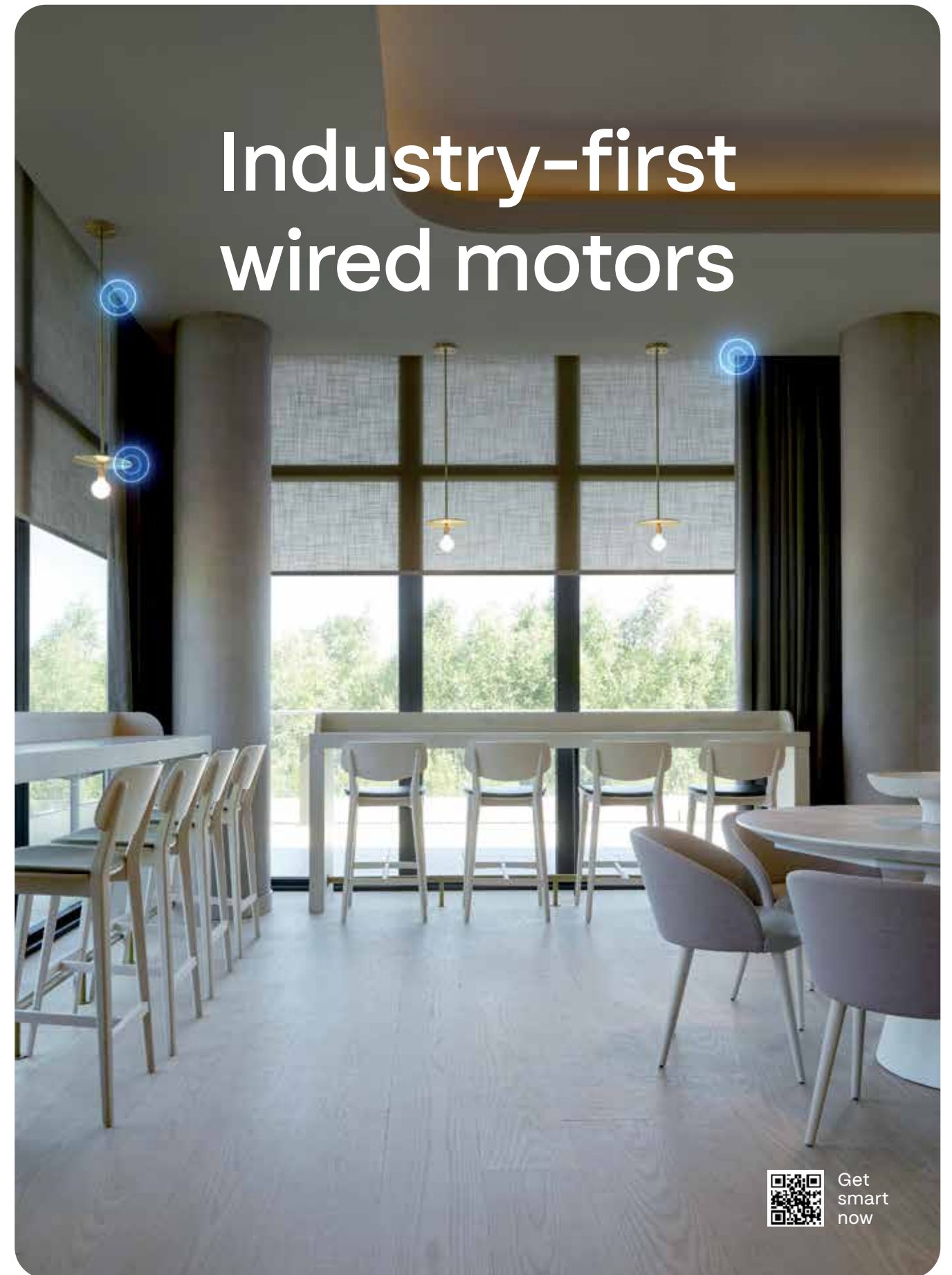


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Published by Nylapix (Pty) Ltd
Editorial: editorial@designingways.com
Advertising: Stienie Greyling • 081 846 6214 • stienie@designingways.com
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Subscriptions and Distribution: subscriptions@designingways.com
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Twelve issues of **DESIGNING WAYS** are published per year

P O Box 1248, Fontainebleau, 2032.
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Facsimile +27 (0) 86 678 8448
www.designingways.com

Advertisements submitted for publication must be high resolution PDF (PDF/X-1a or PDF/X4) and will be printed to European Bruma colour standards. **DESIGNING WAYS** accepts no responsibility for colour reproduction if the supplied material has been incorrectly made up.

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Local luxury

How South African furniture is redefining hospitality spaces

As global hospitality trends shift toward sustainable sourcing and authentic local experiences, South African-made furniture is emerging as a natural fit for the continent's growing tourism and hospitality industry. From boutique hotels and luxury lodges, to contemporary guest houses and co-working spaces, a new wave of design professionals are embracing local craftsmanship – not just for its beauty, but for the business impact it delivers.

According to Greg Boule, CEO of the South African Furniture Initiative (SAFI), the hospitality sector has a unique opportunity to drive meaningful change through the choices it makes.

“Hospitality is about storytelling – and local furniture tells the story of South Africa’s creativity, resilience and design excellence,”

says Boule.

“When hotels and lodges choose locally made pieces, they aren’t just supporting jobs and communities, they’re elevating their own guest experiences with authentic African style.”

An industry ready to deliver

While imported furniture has long dominated procurement lists, local manufacturers have stepped up in both capability and quality. South Africa’s furniture makers now offer a broad range of high-end, hospitality-grade collections – from timber and upholstered pieces to bespoke items crafted for unique spaces.

“Designers and developers are often surprised by the range and sophistication of what’s available locally,”

says Boule.

“We have manufacturers who meet international standards in terms of sustainability, durability and design versatility. And what’s more, they can customise bespoke pieces – something you rarely get from offshore suppliers.”

With increased government and industry support, the local furniture sector is also investing in innovation and skills development. SAFI, in collaboration

with partners such as the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (the DTIC), has played a central role in building a more export-ready and globally competitive industry.

A supply chain that makes sense

Beyond design, local sourcing offers practical advantages for hospitality operators navigating post-pandemic volatility and global supply chain delays.

“Choosing South African furniture reduces lead times, lowers transport costs and significantly lessens the environmental footprint of a project,”

says Boule.

“It’s a win-win in today’s climate-conscious market.”

In a world where ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) principles are influencing procurement decisions, local furniture provides a tangible way for hotels and hospitality groups to align their interiors with their sustainability goals.

Creating impact through design

From luxury safari lodges in Mpumalanga to urban hotels in Cape Town, the presence of South African furniture is being felt – not only in aesthetics, but in the livelihoods it supports, notes Boule:

“The hospitality sector has the potential to uplift our local manufacturing base in a big way. Every locally made table or chair represents income for a family, skills training for a young designer, and long-term growth for our economy.”

By choosing local, hospitality professionals also tap into a cultural richness that mass-produced imports simply can’t replicate. Many furniture



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pieces incorporate indigenous materials, techniques and narratives that resonate with local and international guests alike.

What's next?

As SAFI continues its work to champion the South African furniture sector, its message to the hospitality industry is clear: local furniture is not a compromise – it's a competitive advantage.

"We invite hoteliers, designers and developers to engage with local manufacturers," says Boule.

"Our industry is open for business, ready to collaborate and committed to quality. By working together, we can create spaces that are not only beautiful, but ones that are proudly South African too."

SAFI will be attending the Hotel & Hospitality Show Africa, where it hopes to connect with key decision-makers seeking meaningful partnerships with local producers. For those ready to reimagine their spaces with impact, the solution could be closer than they think.

Katlego Tong, Marketing Executive: Food & Hospitality for DMG Events, welcomes SAFI's attendance: "We're thrilled to have SAFI at this year's Hotel & Hospitality Show Africa. Their presence underscores a growing movement

in our sector - one that celebrates local craftsmanship and sustainable sourcing. The South African furniture industry offers world-class design and manufacturing capabilities, and we believe the expo is the perfect platform for those capabilities to shine.

Boule concludes:

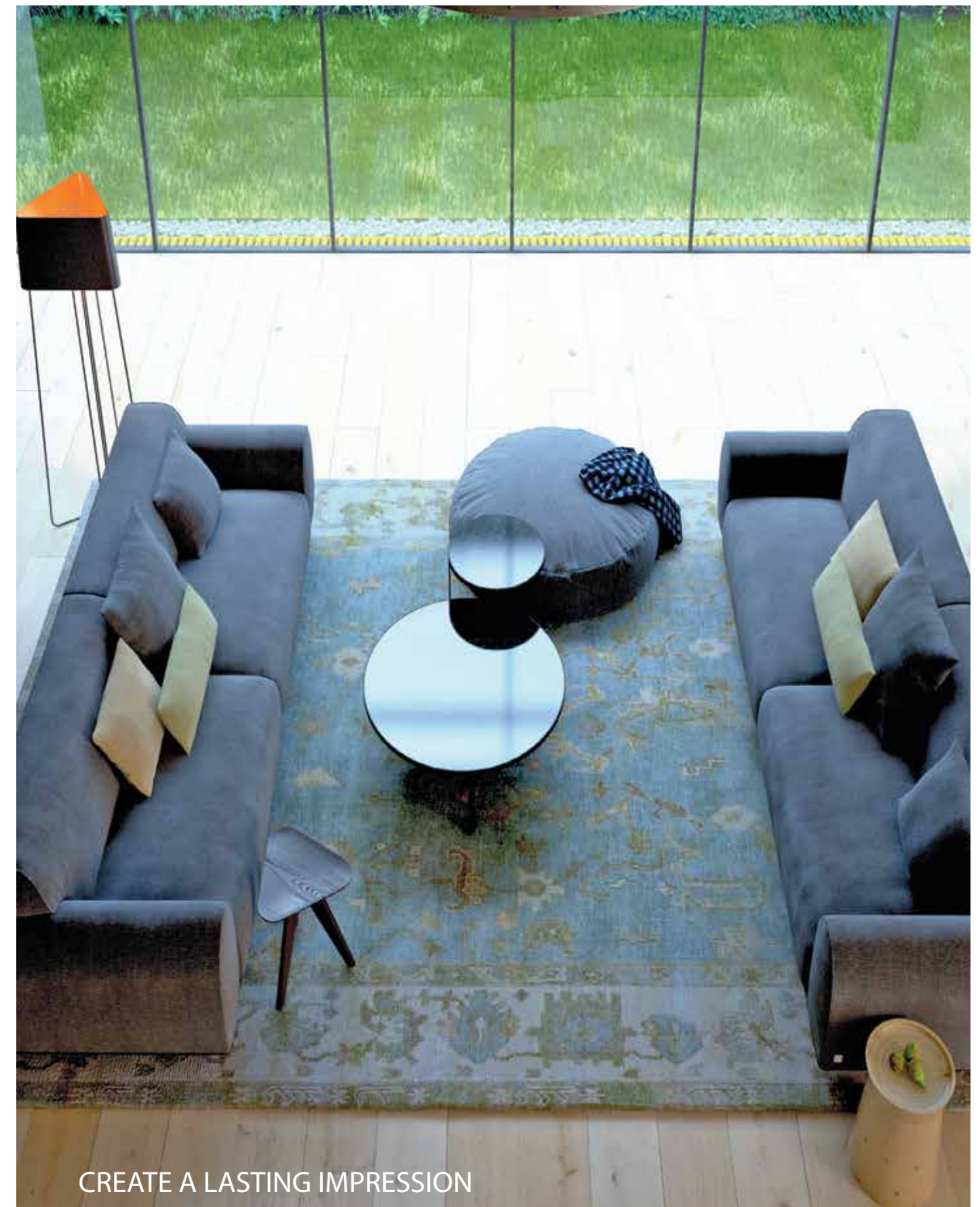
"By connecting hospitality buyers with local producers, we're not only showcasing beautiful furniture – we're also strengthening the entire value chain. Choosing local isn't just patriotic; it's smart business. For the hospitality sector,

it offers a chance to create spaces that are authentic, sustainable and rooted in African excellence.

"At SAFI, our mission is to build a globally competitive furniture industry that places South African-made pieces in every home, school and workplace across the continent - and beyond. Through strategic partnerships, skills development and market access, we're helping the industry grow, transform and thrive."

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Rainmaker and Hirsch's Collaboration Brings Extra Value to Homebuyers and Developers

Rainmaker Marketing, a global leading property and lifestyle marketing agency, has officially partnered with Hirsch's Homestores, the country's largest independently owned appliance and electronics retailer, to launch a powerful new initiative aimed

at adding tangible lifestyle value to residential developments.

This strategic collaboration marks a first for the property marketing space - merging Rainmaker's award-winning expertise with Hirsch's longstanding reputation for quality, service, and

innovation. At the heart of this partnership is a simple but compelling offer: exclusive Hirsch's vouchers for buyers purchasing property in selected Rainmaker-marketed developments.

A Head Start for Property Purchasers

In a market where first-time buyers are navigating high costs and limited disposable income, this partnership aims to alleviate some of the pressure. According to Stefan Botha, Director of Rainmaker Marketing, the partnership will allow homeowners to personalise and equip their new space with essentials that suit their lifestyle and budget, thanks to a meaningful boost in the form of a Hirsch's Homestore voucher.

From kitchen appliances to TVs, vacuum cleaners to washing machines, buyers can choose what they need, when they need it, across Hirsch's expansive national network. Apart from this being a generic incentive - it's flexible, practical, and empowering.

"For many buyers, especially those stepping into the property market for the first time, setting up a home can be financially overwhelming. This voucher

creates breathing room, helping to bridge the gap between buying a property and creating a home. We're proud to partner with Hirsch to offer something that's not just valuable, but meaningful," explains Botha.

Margaret Hirsch, Executive Director and Co-Founder of Hirsch, explains the partnership: 'We love supporting our clients in creating spaces that truly reflect their needs and lifestyle, and assisting them in choosing the right product for their home. We're proud to be part of this new chapter in property marketing — one that prioritises the buyer and aims to shake things up on a long-term basis through multiple developments, rather than just one ad hoc project.'

Creating Sales Momentum for Developers

Botha continues,

"For property developers, the value proposition is equally compelling. By including a Hirsch's voucher as part of the overall offering, developers gain a fresh marketing edge - a lifestyle-centric differentiator that can help drive sales, fast-track decisions, and attract a wider pool of motivated buyers".

The partnership will officially launch with Solara Salta, developed by property

development gurus and Sibaya precinct's Master Developer, Devmco Group. This dynamic new residential development within the Sibaya Coastal Precinct is one of the final remaining opportunities located in a well-established estate. Located just minutes from key amenities and transport routes, Solara combines affordability with quality, making it the ideal starting point for this high-impact initiative.

While the partnership launches in KwaZulu-Natal, its vision is national. With both Rainmaker and Hirsch operating across South Africa, the initiative is designed to scale into other provinces, bringing its benefits to more developers and more buyers across the country and even abroad.

By aligning with a trusted retail brand like Hirsch, Rainmaker is setting a new standard for how residential developments are marketed — with real, lifestyle-driven incentives that resonate with today's buyers while providing a smart and innovative tool for developers. It's a forward-thinking model that puts people first, turning the dream of homeownership into a more supported, seamless experience across either ends of the spectrum. dw

www.rainmakermarketing.co.za



Stefan Botha



Margaret Hirsch

Thresholds

A Group Exhibition

Southern Guild is pleased to present *Thresholds*, a group exhibition welcoming the multidisciplinary work of 18 contemporary artists, on view in Cape Town from 29 May to 14 August, 2025. The exhibition abstracts notions of place, documenting the body's precarious negotiation with land, and questions our architectures – both physical and ideological – that contain shape and root, that liberate and define us.

Featured artists include Daniel Adam Levi, Belinda Blignaut, Patrick Bongoy, Simphiwe Buthelezi, Zarah Cassim, Amine El Gotaibi, Madoda Fani, Alexandra Karakashian, Nthabiseng Kekana, Nozuko Madokwe, Justine Mahoney, Thero Makepe, Rochelle Nembhard, Mmangaliso Nzuza, Mankebe Seakgoe, Gemma Shepherd, Lulama Wolf and Luyanda Zindela.



Justine Mahoney
Portrait



Rochelle Nembhard &
Gemma Shepherd
Bound



Simphiwe Buthelezi
Amazwe



BELINDA BLIGNAUT
Resident Boomslang

Whether confronting the spectral weight of geopolitical borders or conjuring imagined terrains that destabilise the notion of 'territory', the exhibition brings land and place into focus. Here, land is neither static nor inert – it is contested, fluid, charged with histories of displacement, belonging, and transformation.

The landscape has historically operated within the Western canon as a site for the projection of cultural ideals of beauty, ownership and dominion. Often employed to illustrate allegory within stylised and constructed visions of harmony and order, the genre functioned as both aesthetic spectacle and ideological apparatus, frequently erasing the presence of labour, indigenous life, or colonial violence from the frame. South Africa's history of landscape painting cannot be disentangled from colonial dispossession, Apartheid spatial politics, and indigenous cosmologies of land. Through this lens, earth is not to be claimed, aestheticised or extracted from. It is not neutral or decorative but politically charged and imbued with spirit, trauma and longing.

Many of the exhibition's works embrace the transformative potential of organic

matter and ancestral materials, exploring the ecological and social instabilities of the present through acts of making that are both political and devotional. Using icansi (reed mats), glass beads, tankrali (ancient Zulu seed beads), sea sand, seashells, and metal, Simphiwe Buthelezi crafts immersive, tactile abstractions that function as mnemonic landscapes. Intuitively navigating themes of community and nationhood, the artist gestures toward a desire to relocate the self, to return to a familiar place, whether real, invented, or symbolic. Like Buthelezi, Nozuko Madokwe positions her practice as a site of return, an energetic conduit for reconnection with earth and divine genesis.

Her process, part alchemical, part ritual, begins with pilgrimages to Cape Town's local mountains, where she gathers rocks and sediment that are ground into richly pigmented powders and paints.

The resulting works emerge through a gestural vocabulary of smudging, folding, and scattering, ultimately collapsing the boundaries between body, land, and spirit.

Clay carries the weight of ancient custom and origin; to shape earth is to engage in an act of communion and transmutation, ratifying creation myths where the spark of life is believed to be formed from soil and breath. Belinda Blignaut's ceramic vessels are built with harvested wild clay, hand-dug from local riverbeds. She invites the unruly and elemental into each work's making, gilding her forms with found snake skins, shells, stones and plant matter – materials that resist control and yield to chance. In the heat of the kiln, small explosions may rupture the form; surfaces blister or crack. These moments of undoing are not imperfections but offerings, fragments later rejoined, massaged and sutured into an emergent whole. The lineage of Southern Africa's ceramic traditions reverberates in Madoda Fani's practice, whose smoke-fired and burnished forms evince both ancestral continuity and contemporality. Encased in rippling, hand-carved patterns that evoke insect-like armour, Fani's works hold a resilience that honours the journey of his community and deep-rooted heritage.

Central to the exhibition's thematic throughline is the body, not merely as subject or site but as another place

for both fracture and reconstitution, a vessel through which the external world is inscribed and, in turn, resisted. Mmangaliso Nzuza's figurative oil-on-canvas painting expands on the artist's recent impulse to depict his figures in the imagined outdoors; far removed from the politics and containment of the politics and containment of the domestic space. In the soft dignity of Nzuza's figures, unburdened by performance, there emerges a profound assertion of space: an insistence on rest, stillness, joy, and the expansive right to subjectivity.

Cassim's paintings appear as daydreams; luminous brushwork and a palette of fiery, soft hues render her overgrown landscapes as inner worlds embedded with nostalgia, wonder and quiet unease.

As landscapes – both real and imagined – edge toward entropy, *Thresholds* asks: How do we carve out spaces of meaning, materially or metaphysically? Making becomes an act of anchoring – a way of situating oneself within the vast and shifting topographies of existence. dw

www.southernguild.com



MADODA FANI
Mathunyw, Angalambi

Studio Masson Unveils New Flagship Showroom in Cape Town

A Celebration of Luxury, Design, and Collaboration

Studio Masson proudly opened the doors to its highly anticipated new showroom on Wednesday, 14 May 2025, marking a pivotal moment in the company's journey as South Africa's premier destination for luxury interior surfaces and curated design experiences.

Located in Paarden Eiland, Cape Town, the expansive 1,200-square-metre showroom redefines how designers, architects, and homeowners engage with surface finishes. Conceived as more than just a display space, the new showroom is an immersive environment where refined aesthetics meet architectural innovation.

Carefully curated zones showcase Studio Masson's world-class European porcelain tiles, mosaics, and timber flooring - now complemented by an expanded collection of exclusive lifestyle brands, presented in real-life settings that transform inspiration into tangible possibility.

"This showroom is the realisation of a vision we've nurtured for many years," says Heidi Masson, Co-Founder of Studio Masson.

"We wanted to create a space that not only showcases the exceptional quality of our finishes but also allows clients to experience

them in a contextual, emotional, and truly inspiring way - with light, furniture, texture, and art bringing every product to life."

Celebrating 10 Years of Partnership with Iris Ceramica Group

The launch event also honoured Studio Masson's decade-long partnership with the Iris Ceramica Group, a cornerstone of the brand's portfolio. Known for their innovation and excellence in porcelain technology, Iris Ceramica has played a vital role in shaping Studio Masson's reputation for delivering leading-edge surface solutions to the South African market.

Introducing a New Era of Design Collaboration

With the unveiling of the new showroom, Studio Masson introduced several exclusive new partnerships - extending the brand's vision from surfaces into a complete luxury living experience.

Highlights include:

- **Gessi** – Italy's premier name in high-end designer tapware, now a part of Studio Masson's curated bathware collection.
- **Antoniolupi** – Renowned for sculptural and avant-garde bathroom design, this leading Italian brand adds refined elegance to the showroom.
- **Roche Bobois** – The legendary French design house introduces bold, contemporary furniture pieces that offer sophistication and comfort.
- **Officine Gullo** – Masters of artisanal kitchen design, blending traditional Florentine craftsmanship with cutting-edge culinary functionality.

Showcasing South African Design Excellence

In celebration of local creativity, the showroom also features exceptional South African design voices:

- **Stephen Pikus Lighting** – A pioneer in sustainable lighting design, whose striking pieces add industrial edge and warmth to the space.



- **Kino** – Makers of refined, hand-crafted wooden furniture that exudes quiet sophistication.
- **Wiid Design** – Known for functional yet artistic cork and ceramic creations that seamlessly blend utility with design.

A Destination for Design Professionals

To continue inspiring and engaging the design community, Studio Masson is launching Fine Finishes Fridays—a series of exclusive, by-invitation events tailored for architects, interior designers, and industry professionals. These gatherings will offer an opportunity to explore new collections in a relaxed, collaborative setting while engaging in hands-on discussions around design and innovation.

Award-Winning Vision

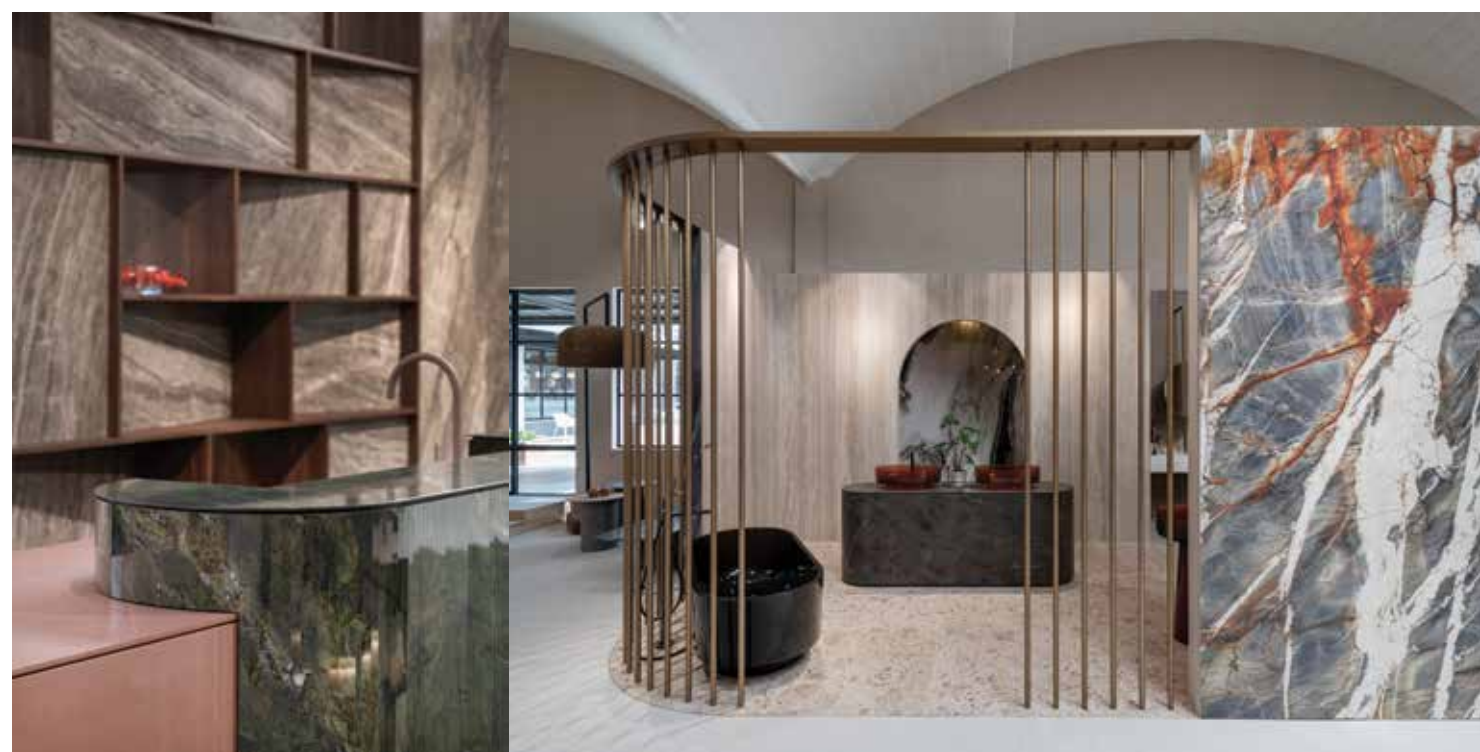
The showroom opening follows Studio Masson's recent win at the Luxury Lifestyle Awards, where the brand was recognised as the Best Luxury Surface Design Company - a testament to its continued leadership in curating sophisticated interior solutions and building meaningful global and local partnerships.

"We're incredibly proud of what we've created with this new showroom," concludes Heidi.

"But this is just the beginning. Our mission is to continually explore, discover, and introduce the world's finest finishes to our clients - offering them not just exceptional products, but elevated, immersive experiences that inspire better living."

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www.studiomasson.co.za



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at the IID Student
Design Conversations

At Max on Top®, our passion for design goes beyond supplying high-quality materials - it starts with the visionary designers who are shaping the future of our industry. That is why we are committed to nurturing the next generation of creatives. Supporting design students isn't just a gesture of goodwill, it is a lasting investment in the sustainability and innovation of the design ecosystem.

Students often bring fresh perspectives, bold ideas and an enthusiasm that can challenge conventional thinking. But enthusiasm alone isn't enough - without the right support, guidance and industry access, many promising talents stumble at crucial early stages. We believe it is our responsibility to help smooth that path, creating a meaningful bridge between academia and the real-world design landscape.



The "IID Student Design Conversation" event served as a platform that allowed open dialogue between design students and industry professionals. It wasn't a lecture, a pitch, or a promotional showcase - it was a genuine conversation. One that encouraged openness, curiosity, and connection. By engaging students early on, we help demystify the supplier relationship, equipping them with the tools, language and confidence to explore materials more effectively and creatively from the very beginning.

Our goal is to create meaningful opportunities for students to engage

directly with us - to understand how products are developed and learn how to ask the right questions. These interactions can break down hesitation, build trust, and remove the common obstacles that young designers often face as they step into the professional world.

When students engage with suppliers early in their development, they gain more than just product knowledge - they begin to build trust. But trust isn't built overnight; it grows through consistent, genuine engagement. And this trust lays the foundation for smoother, more productive, and more

rewarding collaborations in the future. By supporting students, not only as future clients but during their learning journey we show that we're more than suppliers - we are partners in their creative growth.

In turn, these students grow into professionals who feel confident in approaching suppliers. They are empowered to make informed decisions, ask insightful questions, and push creative boundaries. This collaborative mindset drives better design outcomes and inspires more innovative use of materials.

A core aim of our interactions is to eliminate future friction. Misunderstanding product applications, availability or sustainability can sideline even the most promising projects. By starting these conversations early, we help set a strong foundation of knowledge and confidence.

At Max on Top®, we are not just a part of today's design conversation - we want to help shape its future. That means investing in the next generation of creatives who will lead the way. We are committed to building a better, stronger industry, rooted in transparency and shared purpose. And that is a future we are proud to invest in.

www.iidprofessions.org.za



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Why Being Part of the IID Matters More Than Ever

Your Voice. Our Industry. One Collective Future.

In a country rich with creative talent and diverse design perspectives, South African interior designers, décorators, and interior architects are making waves across the continent. But in a fast-changing industry, talent alone is no longer enough. To truly elevate the profession, and protect it, we need to stand together. That is where the

South African Institute of the Interior Design Professions (IID) comes in.

The IID is the only professional body representing interior design, interior architecture, and interior décorating in South Africa. And being a member isn't just a nice-to-have, it's essential.

KSA update, June 2025.

On the 11 June the KSA held an intimate event in collaboration with the IID at Unipanel's showrooms in Kramerville, Sandton. The event centred around a talk compiled by Stephanie Forbes (KSA National Manager) and Maria Day (IID Managing Director) entitled 'The Kitchen Evolution'. Included in the talk were representatives from our community – Dipuo Pikathi of Denic Cabinets, Zunaïd Khan of Unipanel and Monica Delgado of Studio 904.

The talk looked at how the kitchen space is morphing into a space that requires a new definition. It is transcending the practical space for food preparation and becoming the key central hub of the home – a space for work, for creativity, for connection, for emotional well-being, for sanctuary. It is both an inside and an outside space and there is a growing need for a clear connection between it and the rest of the home.

We unpacked how the language used in a kitchen brief is changing to help give the space broader purpose and meaning. Maria and Monica talked about how the interior design industry is talking more about a nutritional space and a centre of home connection. We then looked

at how kitchen design had broadened to take further note of emotional and psychological well-being, and to be inclusive of those with physical and mental impairments.

Dipuo highlighted how the modern kitchen needs to move beyond function and embrace the elegance of high-end furniture, seamlessly blending in with the rest of the home. There is a growing need to 'hide' the base functions of the space, allowing it to be embraced as a living area. Pocket doors and bifold doors

that facilitate key parts of the space to be hidden from view, and then revealed when needed, have been key to this process.

Zunaïd reinforced this move when he spoke of the changes we are seeing in materials. Materials used in the kitchen are being echoed throughout the house – like fluting and cladding that can feature on the kitchen island, then on the TV unit and again on the bathroom vanities. The growing use of glass, layered lighting, coloured carcassing, hardware that facilitates sleek lines, seamless opening

and elegant storage all point to this move away from the old food preparation space into a multifunctional, elegant, family space.

Stephanie then posed the question – how is this revolution going to succeed and continue if we do not address the poor working relationship and the lack of cooperation and collaboration between the kitchen industry and the interior design industry. It was posed that work is often given to the less formalised and established kitchen companies, and

materials are often specified outside of their correct tolerances.

The panel unpacked this by sharing their experiences, discussing how we can better work together, concluding that there is indeed a need for kitchen designers and interior designers to be more collaborative when working on a kitchen, and for kitchen manufacturers to be open to working with the designer rather than insisting on full ownership of the design. There is also a need for greater transparency when it comes to costs and

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The Kitchen Specialists
ASSOCIATION

commissions to stop reputable kitchen companies being outpriced on work due to the addition of unrealistic mark-ups and commissions. The need for greater product knowledge and engagement between suppliers and interior designers was also discussed to ensure fewer mistakes in specification.

The talk concluded with some very constructive input from the audience which facilitated further discussion, all proving the importance of good dialogue, receptiveness and cooperation between built environment players. The talk itself was an example of how much the KSA and the IID are achieving, and the perspective and perceptions they are challenging by working together in this manner.

Overall, the evening was a great success. Our hosts, Unipanel and National Edging, ensured our audience of interior designers, kitchen designers and students were treated to some delicious snacks and then enjoyed the opportunity to network.

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The Dalmore Unveils Collaboration with Foster + Partners' Ben Dobbin on the Prestigious Luminary Series as 2025 Edition Launches in Venice

Dundee, United Kingdom

The Dalmore Single Malt Whisky proudly announce their collaboration with Ben Dobbin of renowned architecture practice Foster + Partners for the third chapter of The Dalmore Luminary Series, which shines a light on the worlds of whisky-making artistry and architectural design.

Curated in partnership with V&A Dundee, Scotland's Design Museum, The Dalmore Luminary Series No.3 offers two exquisite new Single Malt Whiskies, both a co-creation between Ben Dobbin, whose projects include the iconic Apple Park (USA) and the revitalisation of the Transamerica Pyramid (USA), and The Dalmore's renowned Whisky Makers, Gregg Glass and Richard Paterson OBE.



The Dalmore Luminary 2025 Edition - The Rare - is an extremely rare Single Malt Whisky Aged 52 Years, and the oldest whisky to be released in The Luminary Series. This beautifully rich whisky will be held in a specially designed decanter, housed within a bespoke sculpture designed by Dobbin, and is to be offered at auction by Sotheby's, in support of partner V&A Dundee.

The Dalmore Luminary No.3 - 2025 Edition - The Collectible is a rare Single Malt Whisky Aged 17 Years, with a bespoke presentation case inspired by 'The Rare'. Strictly limited, only 20,000 bottles will be available globally at select luxury and specialist retailers.

This edition of The Dalmore Luminary Series is rooted in creative flow and precision. These are qualities shared by Ben Dobbin and The Dalmore's Master Whisky Makers, Gregg Glass and Richard Paterson OBE, in both ethos and process, as Luminaries in their respective fields. This is evident in both the whiskies and accompanying designs created for these very special releases.

Reflections on the power of landscapes and nature to inspire creativity were a key part of the exchange between the team, with Dobbin captivated by the ebb and flow of the topography and finely engineered magnificence of the bridges and lochs that surround The Dalmore's Highland distillery.

Dobbin's extraordinary sculpture, which houses The Dalmore Luminary 2025 Edition - The Rare, sees the whisky appear almost suspended in time and is a fine example of tensegrity, a contemporary style of architecture in which objects appear to be built by nature in precisely balanced tension. Using this architectural approach, Dobbin has designed an art sculpture that is dynamic, bold, and perfectly balanced. The asymmetric sculpture, made of bronze, features dramatic waves and rods, smooth curves, and straight lines, and is balanced with precision in dynamic equilibrium.

The Dalmore whisky makers were equally exacting when creating the whiskies and also took inspiration from Dobbin's personal tastes and preferences

into the creative process. The Dalmore Luminary 2025 Edition - The Rare is Aged 52 Years, with a multi-cask finish in exceptionally rare casks, whilst The Dalmore Luminary No.3 - 2025 Edition is Aged 17 Years and also features a complex multi-cask finish that alludes to the flavour profile of 'The Rare'.

Inspired by conversations with Dobbin, The Dalmore whisky makers revisited a special set of Calvados casks, which the team had the foresight to lay down even before the French brandy was approved as a cask finish by the Scotch Whisky authorities in 2019.

From here, both whiskies took on separate and complex maturation journeys, whilst staying true to the signature house style of citrus, chocolate, and warming spice that The Dalmore is known and loved for. The resulting whiskies showcase The Dalmore's pioneering approach to multi-cask maturation and whisky making artistry.

The Dalmore Luminary 2025 Edition - The Rare is aged 52 Years, and will be offered at leading auction house Sotheby's

along with the accompanying sculpture. The auction will be held via Sotheby's Hong Kong and will close on May 16, with 100% of proceeds again donated to V&A Dundee, Scotland's Design Museum. The lot is one of only two sets, with the second set to be held at The Dalmore distillery, in the Scottish Highlands.

This exceptionally rare Single Malt is a sumptuous and layered whisky of finesse. It captures the essence of The Dalmore's whisky-making artistry and reflects the design philosophy behind Ben Dobbin's sculpture. Just as Dobbin's work balances precision and creative flow, The Dalmore's whisky makers elevate the spirit's journey by moving parcels of whisky between some of the world's rarest casks. These include Vintage 1980 Calvados, 1940 Colheita Port, rare Tawny Port, 40 year old Pedro Ximénez Sherry, and Châteauneuf-du-Pape wine casks. By harnessing the tension between these diverse cask characters, that are either contrasting or complementary, The Dalmore has brought to life a whisky of extraordinary depth, complexity, and



enduring elegance. A rare masterpiece, creating a truly extraordinary moment of reward.

The Dalmore Luminary No.3 - 2025 Edition – The Collectible is aged 17 Years, and is inspired by ‘The Rare’, elegantly housed in a bespoke, fold-out presentation case, which draws inspiration from the sculpture. A strictly limited release, just 20,000 bottles will be made available globally from mid-May.

From initial maturation in American White Oak ex-Bourbon barrels, this whisky has been finished in a bold combination of seven casks, including both vintage and aged Calvados, rare Matusalem Sherry, rare Apostoles Sherry, select red wine casks from Bordeaux and Châteauneuf-du-Pape, and fully matured American White Oak.

The Dalmore Luminary Series No. 3 follows two acclaimed earlier collaborations, firstly with Kengo Kuma and Maurizio Mucciola, designers of the landmark V&A Dundee, and last year with Melodie Leung, renowned designer and Director at Zaha Hadid Associates, whose portfolio includes The Henderson Building in Hong Kong.

The Luminary Series proudly supports The Dalmore’s partner, V&A Dundee, Scotland’s Design Museum. Since forming their partnership in 2020, and the inception of The Luminary Series in 2021, The Dalmore has given over £200,000 to the museum to aid in their design and community work both locally and globally.

All elements for this third chapter of The Dalmore Luminary Series were conceived collaboratively, with Glass, Paterson, and Dobbin working together to bring both the whiskies and designs to life.

The Global Launch in Venice

The Dalmore Luminary Series No.3 was officially unveiled on Wednesday, May 7, 2025 in Venice, ahead of the world’s most important exhibition of architecture, the Venice Biennale. The global launch featured dynamic discussion from The Dalmore’s Luminary collaborators – Ben Dobbin, Melodie Leung, and Maurizio Mucciola - moderated by Venice Architecture Biennale 2023 curator, Professor Lesley Lokko OBE.

The Venice Biennale invites conversation on the role of architecture in the world. Attendees to this event from The Dalmore received an exclusive first look at The Dalmore Luminary 2025 Edition sculpture and decanter, which featured in a unique exhibition co-curated

by V&A Dundee and Foster + Partners, and is available to view digitally from May 8 via The Dalmore website. A world-first tasting of The Dalmore Luminary No.3 – 2025 Edition was also hosted.

The Dalmore Luminary 2025 Edition – The Rare - will be offered at auction by Sotheby’s Hong Kong, where the sculpture and decanter will be on display from May 9-16. The auction will close on May 16 and, as with the 2024 Edition auctioned last year, 100% of the proceeds will be donated to V&A Dundee.

The Dalmore Luminary No.3 - 2025 Edition will be available from luxury and specialist retailers around the world and also in global travel retail, from mid-May, **RRP \$399.99 USD / £299 / €340**. Those in the UK and USA can also purchase directly: <https://www.thedalmore.com/en-us/luminary-series-2025-edition>.

A designer’s proof of The Dalmore Luminary 2025 Edition sculpture and decanter will join The Dalmore Luminary 2022 Edition and Luminary 2024 Edition currently on display at V&A Dundee, from May 14, 2025, ahead of the museum’s ‘Garden Futures’ exhibition, which officially opens on May 17.

The Dalmore Luminary 2025 Edition – The Rare

Only two complete sets of The Dalmore Luminary 2025 Edition, will ever be

made - a Single Malt Whisky Aged 52 Years from The Dalmore, presented in a beautiful decanter and housed in a dramatic bronze sculpture by Ben Dobbin of Foster + Partners

Matured in American White Oak ex-Bourbon barrels, then finished in a rich and complex cask assemblage of Vintage 1980 Calvados, 1940 Colheita Port, Tawny Port, 40 Years Old Pedro Ximénez Sherry, and Châteauneuf-du-Pape casks

One decanter and sculpture will be offered at auction by Sotheby’s Hong Kong in May 2025, with 100% of proceeds going to V&A Dundee

One decanter and sculpture to be displayed at The Dalmore Distillery

One singular decanter reserved for The Dalmore archive

A designer’s proof and model decanter will be on permanent display in V&A Dundee’s design galleries from May 14, 2025, and one further proof and model decanter will be held in Foster + Partner’s archive

Tasting Notes:

- Aroma: Baked red apples, honey, sugared almonds, and soft wood spice
- Tasting Notes: Rich caramel, apple crumble, dark chocolate, and blood orange
- Finishing Notes: Vanilla, tarte tatin, marzipan, and liquorice



- Natural colour, non-chill filtered, bottled at natural strength at 40.3% ABV

The Dalmore Luminary No.3 – 2025 Edition – The Collectible

- Strictly limited to just 20,000 bottles The Dalmore Luminary No.3 – 2025 Edition. A Single Malt Whisky Aged 17 Years from The Dalmore, inspired by The Rare and completed by a bespoke presentation case
- Matured in American White Oak ex-Bourbon barrels, then finished in a complex cask assemblage of Calvados, Vintage Calvados (1989 and 1999), Matusalem Sherry, Apostoles Sherry, red wine casks from Bordeaux and Châteauneuf-

- du-Pape, and ex-Bourbon barrels
- Available from mid-May 2025 at specialist and luxury retailers, as well as global travel retail and via <https://www.thedalmore.com/en-us/luminary-series-2025-edition> for those in the UK and USA
- RRP: \$399.99 USD / £299 / €340

Tasting Notes:

- Aroma: Vibrant orchard character leads on to Madagascan vanilla and cinnamon, with delicate rose water top notes
- Tasting Notes: Rich butterscotch, red apples, tarte tatin, dark cacao, red liquorice, and soft wood spices, elevated by notes of cardamom, Seville oranges, and green tea
- Finishing notes: Dried apricots, ripe blackberries, fresh baked brioche, and soft lingering cassia bark
- Natural colour, non-chill filtered, bottled at the whisky makers’ discretion - select strength 49.2% ABV

www.thedalmore.com



Fang Eyewear Showroom

Design by: M-D
DESIGN STUDIO

This is a bold new approach to commercial design - an innovative exploration rooted in the city's cultural DNA.

Art Landmark-Inspired Commercial Thinking

In Mayu Town, Wenzhou, Zhejiang - a hub of the eyewear industry - Fang's Glasses, founded in 1992, is seizing a fresh start amid economic decline. With a groundbreaking eyewear art showroom, the brand explores the fusion of commerce and culture, paving a bold new path.

Set against a backdrop of urban regeneration, M-D DESIGN STUDIO reimagines the traditional showroom, transforming Fang's Glasses' new space into an artistic landmark within the city's evolving narrative. Beyond its commercial origins, it emerges as a daring, era-defining art space with a deconstructivist aesthetic. The design rises above mere functionality, exploring how commercial spaces can organically transform and redefine their role in industrial cities.



Designer, Wu Jizhong

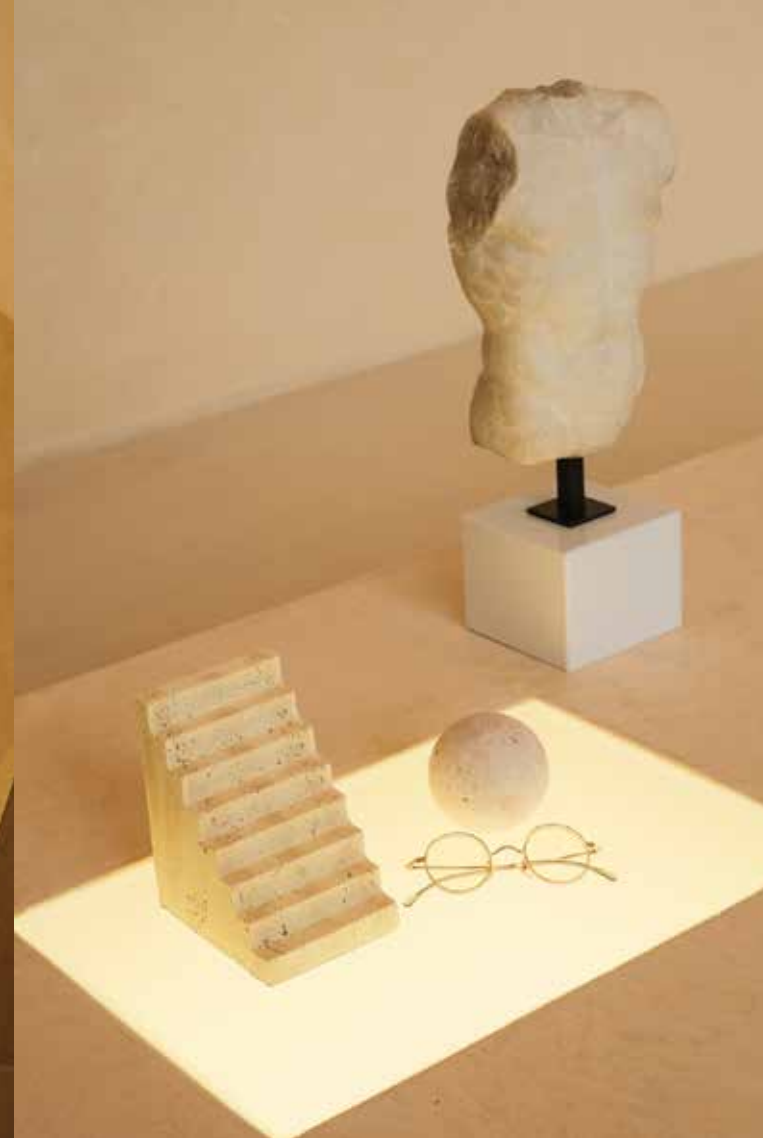


Guided by Light, Shapes Reborn

The concept of geometric form is inspired by astronomical theories, with the triangle in Indian tradition representing the future and symbolising the creation of spiritual essence.

Inspired by this, the design employs 45° light angles as a visual guide, crafting a natural triangular harmony. From the intricate layers of the eyewear showroom, the notion of 'gaze' emerges as a central thread, orchestrating a playful interplay between sight and setting. Soft membrane lighting, concealed within the staggered geometric gaps, casts a warm glow, tempered by subtle red shadows that blend with the earthy tones. Nestled in the recessed ceiling, these lights grow sharper as the gaze draws near.

Sunlight, an invited guest, dances through the structure, reflecting off folded surfaces to create beams that shift with



time. This interplay of light and shadow crafts a dramatic, immersive commercial experience.

Fluid Symbiotic Spatial Form

The interior defies rigid, traditional layouts, embracing a fluid, harmonious design. In an open-plan space, light flows as the guiding force, weaving together visual and spatial continuity while effortlessly linking functional areas. The showroom, café, and art bookstore blend seamlessly, creating a dynamic whole.

The journey begins at the reception, unfolding inward through a vast exhibition atrium where light and shadow play off geometric forms, echoing the 'Light Museum' theme. The scent of coffee lures visitors deeper, guiding them through sculpted spaces to a cosy café zone. Ascend a staircase to the bookstore - a quiet retreat that sparks a dialogue between the space's horizontal and vertical realms.

This sensory-driven path, shaped by sight, smell, and instinct, weaves exhibition elements into every corner. It



acts as a 'connector,' redefining the urban role of commercial spaces.

By embedding a growth-oriented spirit into this commercial framework, the design rethinks retail traditions. It transforms the eyewear showroom into a vibrant urban art landmark, offering compelling reasons to step inside and linger. More than a venue for sales or display, it becomes a piece of the city's identity - reflecting local culture and standing as a tangible snapshot of urban life.

Columns, reshaped into geometric forms, let light weave through, creating a stage-like depth. Eco-friendly artistic coatings unify the ceiling, walls, and floor in a soft warm-white finish, softening the glow. The space feels like a continuous sculpture - intricate yet simple, intimate yet vast - inviting exploration along a maze-like path.

M-D DESIGN STUDIO's Spatial Interpretation of Brand Spirit

The outdoor area acts as a prelude to the interior, shunning ornate traditional

gardens for a sleek, postmodern design. Geometric shapes reflect the site's core spirit, while undulating ground planes and glass façades blur boundaries, syncing with the city's architectural pulse. Together, they form a unified work of urban art.

This project reimagines commercial models from a city-wide lens, linking interior, exterior, and surroundings into a shared cultural narrative. The 'Light Museum' isn't just a brand innovation—it's a lifeline for industrial cities, merging commerce, space, and urban culture in a bold new way.

Project Information

- **Project Name:** Fang Eyewear Showroom
- **Project Location:** Fang Eyewear Showroom, Mayu Town, Rui'an, Wenzhou, Zhejiang, China
- **Project Type:** Commercial Space / Exhibition Hall
- **Project Area:** Interior: 1,300m², Landscape: 1,700m²
- **Design Firm:** M-D DESIGN STUDIO

- **Firm Location:** Urban Balcony Commercial Center, Wenzhou, Zhejiang
- **Lead Designer:** Jizhong Wu
- **Chief Designer:** Yangling Ye
- **Photography Team:** Yu Sunping, Xie Shuxiang, Qu Wenhao, Wu Qiyao
- **Landscape Construction:** Shanghai Dio Landscape Engineering & Design Co., Ltd.
- **Main Materials:** Artistic Paint, Terrazzo, Stainless Steel

- **Project Completion:** January 2025

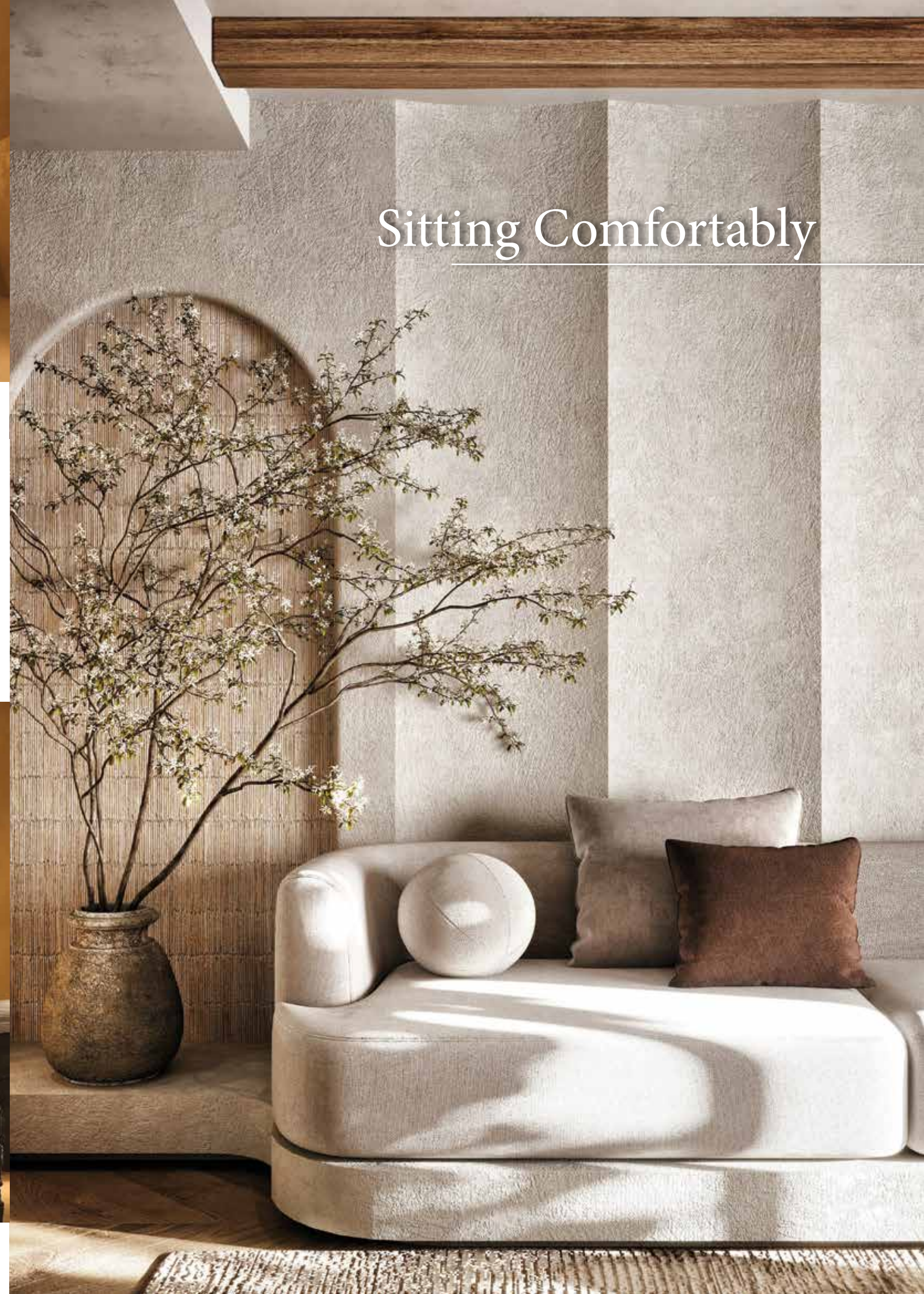
About M-D DESIGN STUDIO

Founded in 2013 in Wenzhou, China, M-D DESIGN STUDIO is a multidisciplinary design team driven by humanistic values. Spanning landscape architecture, art, commercial spaces, and material innovation, the firm blends architecture with diverse media to shape urban, natural, and cultural perspectives. Through thoughtful design and artistic creation, it crafts works that enrich everyday life.

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Sitting Comfortably



In the world of fast moving trends, curves dominate supreme

by Stienie Greyling

Curves are now a mainstay in home interiors as they break up the harsh lines and invite softness.

In 2025, 'comfortably, comfortable' furniture will be a prominent trend, focusing on relaxed and inviting spaces without sacrificing style.

Expect to see oversized sofas, deep seated chairs and rounded edges, all contributing to a cosy atmosphere. Furniture will prioritise both aesthetic and practicality, blending seamlessly with modern or traditional décor.

Soft curves and organic shapes continue to be popular in interior design for 2025, and sofas are no exception. These curved shapes create an inviting, relaxed feel while adding a touch of sophistication to any space.

Whether it's a fully rounded back or subtle, flowing edges, curved sofas make a stylish statement that feels effortlessly contemporary.

Flexibility is key in modern homes and modular sofas provide the ultimate in

versatility. This year's designs feature plush, oversized cushions and deep seating, allowing space to be customised with ease. Perfect for both family rooms and apartments, modular sofas are a really safe bet. No other pieces will offer such flexibility and adapt so cleverly to their surroundings and the evolving need of a home. Each individual section can be moved around to suit the living space or mood. Modular sofas have the transformative power of redefining comfort in a home, offering a place for relaxation and entertaining. Their versatility allows for various seating arrangements and room layout.

One of the joys of a warm neutral is its susceptibility to natural light.

Sofas in tones such as oat, sand and beiges bring a sense of calm and warmth to living spaces. Paired with textured upholstery like bouclé or linen, these sofas create a cosy refined atmosphere that feels both grounded and luxurious.

The most popular sofa shape of 2025 is the corner sofa, along with its smaller



counterpart, the L-shaped chaise sofa. Both have adopted a clever hybrid role for seating and zoning, and offer generous proportions to sit plenty of guests.

Cosy and relaxing upholstery is an important aspect to consider when choosing a sofa and also always on trend. One such fabric that has continued to stand out is bouclé (the French word for 'curved') thanks to its luxe texture and understated elegance. Bouclé's timeless appeal has made it a favourite with designers who would like to add warmth and sophistication to the living room.

There are different types of chairs, each for a specific purpose: armchair, recliner, rocking chair, dining chair, office chair, folding chair, lounge chairs, Adirondack chair, slipper chair and wingback chair. The most elegant chairs were made from materials such as animal hide, carved or gilded wood and ivory.

Modern dining chairs increasingly include features that make sitting more comfortable without sacrificing style.

Dining chairs have moved beyond just being practical pieces. In 2025, find chairs that work as artistic statements while still offering surprising comfort. The designs feature unusual shapes, asymmetrical backs and organic forms that make one wonder - is it furniture or art?

Upholstered trending dining chairs are getting a luxurious upgrade in 2025. Velvet, leather and high-quality textiles are popular choices, adding a touch of

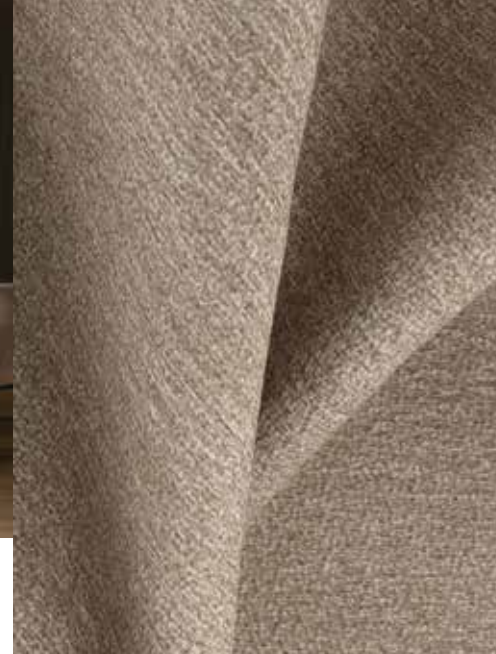
elegance and sophistication to the dining experience. These materials not only feel and look elegant, but also offer added comfort to a dining space.

Combining two types of seating such as classic upholstered chairs paired with modern benches or alternating between two complementary chair styles, creates an eclectic yet sophisticated vibe. This trend allows one to incorporate different textures, finishes and styles into the dining room.

For outdoor chairs, wicker trend is booming at the moment.

Blond wickers are lightening and freshening where things were mostly dark grey tones or brown, making them more interchangeable with old fashioned blond indoor wicker and rattans.

Chairs made from superior quality wood like teak, eucalyptus, acacia, and metals like aluminium are naturally robust and durable, and resistant to the natural elements. dw



Textured Mania: Where Fabric Meets Feeling

by Stuart Graham Fabrics

Get ready to experience upholstery like never before with Textured Mania - the latest launch from Mercis, proudly presented by Stuart Graham Fabrics. This collection is all about celebrating the power of texture to transform a space - not just visually, but emotionally too. It's where fabric meets feeling, and every design tells a story through touch.

At the heart of Textured Mania are four standout fabrics, each with its own personality:

- **Colourado** brings a sense of warmth and comfort with its ultra-soft

microfibre suede and subtle stipple effect. It's the kind of fabric you want to sink into.

- **Sydney** offers a smooth, soft-touch surface with a gentle wave-like pattern that adds a calming, almost meditative vibe.
- **La Paz** is full of charm, featuring intricate detailing that gives it a handcrafted, artisanal feel.
- **Mons** delivers timeless elegance with a refined, tonal geometric texture that is both modern and classic.

Together, these fabrics create a collection rich in variety and full of

character. And with a whopping **96 colour options**, there is truly something for every style. From soft, earthy neutrals and breezy coastal tones to bold, dramatic shades, *Textured Mania* gives you the freedom to play with colour and texture in endless combinations.

But this collection isn't just about good looks. It's built to perform. Each fabric is **flame retardant, water repellent, and affordably priced**, making it a smart choice for both residential and commercial spaces. Whether you're refreshing a family sofa or designing a boutique hotel lobby, these fabrics are up to the task.

Quality is a given - every design is **Labotex-tested** for durability and long - lasting appeal. And with **Oeko-Tex Standard 100 certification**, you can feel confident knowing these fabrics are safe, non-toxic, and environmentally responsible.

Textured Mania is more than a collection - it's an invitation to explore the sensory side of design. It's about creating spaces that don't just look good, but feel amazing too. Whether you're a designer, decorator, or DIY enthusiast, this collection gives you the tools to make a statement.

Feel the texture. See the difference. Discover Textured Mania by Mercis. dw

www.stuartgraham.co.za





A seat with soft, clean lines:

Miki armchair for Lema gets a new design

On the occasion of Salone del Mobile 2025, Pierattelli Architettura studio has renovated Miki armchair created for Lema, a historic made-in-Italy design company, which is the spokesperson for a philosophy permeated by the 'culture of beauty'.

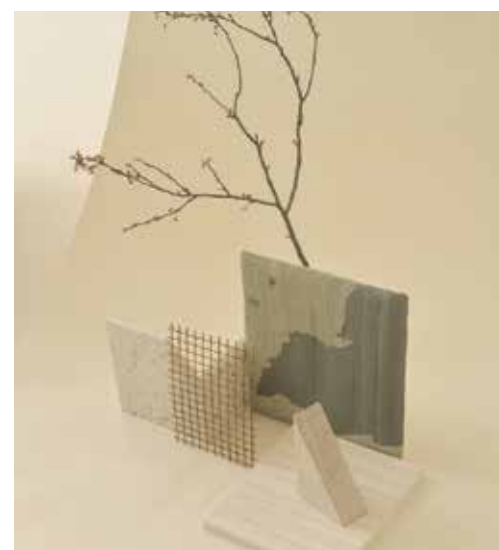
Founded in Florence in 1980, with an office in Milan, Pierattelli Architettura creates furniture that expresses ideals of softness, comfort and dynamism. Miki armchair, with a cosy seat cushion

enclosed in a padded and protective shell, is now also suitable for residential use, thanks to the new wooden legs with a soft curved appearance.

'Miki is delicacy and stability, a well-balanced yet cosy seat with clean, soft lines,'

says architect Claudio Pierattelli.

"The curved shape, the armchair's distinguishing feature, and its upholstered backrest were conceived as a nest, a



protected place to which one is happy to return. With the aim of extending the functionality of this product, we decided to create a version that is also ideal for residential use, which will complement Miki armchair equipped with a swivel mechanism."

Defined by small dimensions and a high back, the new armchair, with four black wooden legs and a soft, sinuous style, retains its upholstery in fabric, leather or synthetic leather, but offers an even more versatile and harmonious version, ideal for those who seek a modern and refined taste without renouncing comfort and well-being.

Lema presents its vision of made-to-measure living and dining environments, where each proposal conveys the pleasure of living with a sophisticated and discreet design, enriched by Italian style, attention to detail and a deep manufacturing culture of excellence. The collection stands out for its attention to production processes, selection of materials and constant experimentation with colours and materials, resulting in furnishings that perfectly combine functionality and design. Unique and contemporary interpretations of the Mediterranean lifestyle, a true manifesto of Made in Italy, is open to the world and a bearer of the richness of our culture and Italian craftsmanship excellence

Miki, design by Pierattelli Architettura for Lema

- **Year:** 2024
- **Lema Showroom:** Largo Augusto 8, 20122 Milano, 10.00 a.m. - 08.00 p.m.

- **Product description:** 4 wooden legs in black
- **Seat:** solid wood and plywood with seat suspension guaranteed by elastic straps with a high rubber component and padding in polyurethane foam in differentiated densities
- **Backrest:** curved solid wood and plywood with padding in polyurethane foam in differentiated densities. Further upholstery of the structure with fibre bonded with fabric adhesive to velcro.
- **Skids:** black polyethylene
- **Removable upholstery:** the seat cover is removable while the structure cover is fixed

www.pierattelliarchitettura.com



Kyma

designed by Matteo
Nunziati for Turri The
lightness of the shapes
in the living area

Inspired by the work of Giovanni Muzio - a crucial character of the artistic movement in the twentieth century - Kyma interprets the tradition through an essential language by transforming classical architectural elements into a contemporary design.

Materials and finishing define all the collection furniture: sofa, armchair, and coffee tables.

The sofa and the armchair are designed to offer comfort and elegance, and are both characterised by a wood structure supporting a leather 'pocket' inside of which the cushions seem to be gently placed. This element is totally made

of leather, and it enhances the feeling of lightness and suspension. The main structure can be available in wood, while the cushions can be created in a leather or fabric version.

Proportions and joints are elegantly manufactured in their being linear and pure, a reminder of the tradition of Italian know-how.

All the upholstery of the collection includes soft and abundant volumes defined by tailor-made details, refined stitching, and a light colour palette designed to dialogue with the other elements.

The coffee tables complete the collection: presented both in the side as well as in the low versions. With the most remarkable diameter of 120 cm, they

explore the relation between volumes and materials. The walnut legs, the top's profile covered by leather and the wood or marble top tell the lightness' firmness by transforming it into a versatile element.

Symbol of Italian artisanal tradition and excellence, the company protects the Made in Italy's value, and together with Matteo Nunziati, tells a story made

of a balance between interior design and architectural designing as an essential combination, which comes true in the accurate materials selection and in their tailor-made manufacturing.

Kyma represents the renewed Turri's identity, where the contemporary language meets the heritage without compromising the essence.

Technical information:

- Armchair 100x110x85h cm
- 2 seater sofa 220x110x85h cm
- 3 seater sofa 260x110x85h cm
- Side table Ø 50x50h cm
- Coffee table Ø 120x35h cm

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www.turri.it



SITTING
COMFORTABLY



Bross debuts in the outdoor scene at the Milano Design Week

A multifunctional furniture collection, presented as a preview at Salone del Mobile 2025, and an iconic product family, revisited for the occasion, mark Bross' entry into the outdoor scene.

The brand's approach to the new segment, dedicated to open-air spaces in the hospitality, residential and office fields, is declined with Slice - news 2025 - and SIT, both designed by Marco Zito: complements an upholstered furniture used for creating outdoor conversation areas, but also terraces, gardens or rooftops.

Slice is a versatile piece of furniture made entirely of cork that can be used as a stool, coffee table, bedside table, or countertop, easily placeable as needed. Available in natural and dark shades - solutions that emphasise its subtle texture - matte or glossy lacquer, it is designed as a slender,

compact extruded piece that features a curved short side and one diagonal cut. The shape enables its use as a single piece but also as several pieces combined together, in a play of free compositions accentuated by the bright shades of the lacquers associated with the cork.

With soft contours and upholstery that are ideal for outdoor relaxation, the SIT range consists of lounge chair, chaise longue and pouf and is re-proposed this year with a new collection of fabrics, fully removable and that guarantee durability and optimal performance even in outdoor environments. Its enveloping and generous volumes - with a back developed on only two sides to allow a free approach to seating and comfort - are supported by a slender metal rod frame, customisable in colours.

www.bross-italy.com



The Art of Reclining

Redefining Comfort
with SUFFA

At SUFFA, we believe that luxury isn't just about how something looks - it's about how it feels. That's why we've dedicated ourselves to perfecting The Art of Reclining - where design meets deep comfort, and elegance meets ease.

Our collection of reclining furniture is crafted with a singular mission: to enhance the way you live.

Each piece is a balance of aesthetic precision, Portuguese craftsmanship, and state-of-the-art motion technology, resulting in seating that is as beautiful as it is functional.

More Than Just a Chair

When you think of reclining furniture, the first image that may come to mind is bulky, old-fashioned, or purely practical. SUFFA turns that idea on its head. Our recliners are sleek, modern, and fully customisable, offering a luxurious experience wrapped in sophisticated style. Whether you love soft linens, durable leathers, or a mix of textures, we allow you to create a piece personal to your space and lifestyle.

And because our recliners are modular, they can adapt to any room - from a stylish apartment to a large family home.

Designed for Slow Living

We live in a fast-paced world where moments of stillness are rare. Reclining



is more than a function - it's a statement. It's a daily practice in self-care and intentional living. Our motion recliners allow you to glide effortlessly into your comfort zone - whether you're reading a book, hosting friends, or enjoying a quiet evening in.

Each mechanism is discreet and whisper-quiet, engineered to ensure longevity without sacrificing style. It's comfort that lasts - and looks good doing it.

Your Comfort, Your Way

SUFFA believes that every home is unique, and your furniture should reflect

that. That is why we offer personalised consultations to help you design the recliner or reclining sofa that suits your vision. From material selection to layout, our team is here to help you bring your comfort to life.

Visit our showroom or book a private consultation to experience The Art of Reclining - only at SUFFA.

Because true luxury is not just how you live, it's how you relax.

www.vencasa.co.za/brand/suffa





MICHAEL

The Amphitheatre of
Conviviality
Design: Blus

Cattelan Italia expands its horizons in the upholstered furniture sector - an ever-evolving field - with an exciting new product. The desire to explore new dimensions of living takes shape in the Michael sofa, a creation that embodies craftsmanship, versatility, and meticulous attention to tailoring details. Like all Cattelan Italia furniture, Michael is entirely made in Italy through a carefully selected network of local collaborators and will be presented at the upcoming Salone del Mobile.Milan 2025.

Its semi-circular shape creates an “amphitheatre” effect that invites conviviality, transforming the living room into a welcoming space. The ergonomic seating and soft upholstery offer tailor-made comfort, while the softly rounded cushions refine the structure, making it ideal even for more compact spaces.



SITTING
COMFORTABLY



Great attention has been given to tailoring details: the backrest stitching creates an elegant interplay of textures, while the grosgrain piping enhances the profiles with extreme sophistication. **Michael's** true essence lies in its modularity: its customisable system allows for various configurations, integrating practical footrest poufs and open backrest modules designed to complement other items of furniture from **Cattelan Italia's** living area collection.

Thanks to its modularity, **Michael** is designed to adapt seamlessly to different settings. The softly rounded upholstered cushions reduce overall depth, making it easy to place in both residential interiors and contract projects, where tailoring details - such as the delicate backrest stitching and grosgrain piping - are particularly appreciated.

For **Cattelan Italia**, upholstered furniture represents a natural extension of its design vision: an ongoing commitment to enhancing Made in Italy craftsmanship through material research, artisan expertise, and innovation - an approach that redefines contemporary living. dw

www.cattelanitalia.com/en



Indoor Gardening Trends



Small-scale indoor ecosystems are a big trend this year.

by Stienie Greyling

In 2025, indoor gardening trends emphasise bringing nature indoors, maximising space with vertical gardens and small-scale ecosystems, and incorporating sustainable practices like hydroponics. A focus on calming plants, colourful foliage and fragrant blooms add the touch of nature's beauty to homes.

Think moss, terrariums, miniature fruit trees and clusters of succulents arranged on shelves or desks. These setups are perfect for adding greenery to small spaces without overwhelming a room.

Native plants are gaining ground as homeowners recognise their value for local ecosystems. These plants thrive in their

home environments, making them easier to maintain while also reducing the need for supplemental watering and chemical treatments. Native flora also plays a crucial role in supporting pollinators and preserving biodiversity, making them a choice that is as practical as it is sustainable.

Sustainable Gardening.

Sustainability has been a rising trend for years, and in 2025, it will be more important than ever. As we all become more conscious of our impact on the environment, we are seeking ways to reduce waste, conserve water and create eco-friendly spaces.

One way to embrace this trend is by choosing compostable materials and reducing reliance on plastic. For instance, when looking to add new pots to a collection, consider options made from terracotta, wood or other natural materials.

Vertical Gardens: Making the Most of Small Spaces.

As we continue to see an increase in urban living, the trend of vertical gardening is set to thrive in 2025. Whether indoors or a small balcony, vertical gardens allow to maximise space without compromising on greenery.

From climbing plants to clever wall-mounted planters, creating a vertical garden is easy. Choose plants like ivy, clematis, or sweet peas for a beautiful cascading effect. Incorporate herbs or plants to make the space functional as well as stylish. A potting bench is a fantastic way to keep everything organised when planning a vertical masterpiece.

Green walls are offering a striking solution for those with limited horizontal space. These living walls not only enhance privacy and air quality, but also create a lush, verdant aesthetic that transform drab walls into vibrant focal points. Advances in modular planting systems

and lightweight pots make it easier than ever to establish and maintain green walls, bringing them into the mainstream.

Indoor Plants: A lasting Trend.

Houseplants aren't going anywhere, in fact, their popularity is still growing. From easy-care pothos (a south eastern Asian climbing plant) and snake plants to statement-making fiddle leaf figs, indoor greenery is becoming a fixture in home décor. With the right pots and planters, indoor plants can thrive while adding a touch of sophistication. Containers designed for both form and function make it simple to create an indoor jungle that is as stylish as it is healthy.

Miniature Indoor Gardens.

Miniature indoor gardens, such as terrariums and bonsai are expected to gain popularity in 2025. These tiny ecosystems offer a captivating way to bring nature

indoors, requiring minimal space and maintenance. Whether it's a miniature forest encased in glass or a meticulously pruned bonsai tree, these small-scale gardens allow people to connect with nature in a unique and artistic way.

Urban Gardening Grows Up.

With urban areas continuing to expand, space-saving gardening techniques are more important than ever. From compact herb gardens on apartment balconies to fully functional vegetable plots on rooftops, city dwellers are finding creative ways to cultivate green spaces. These urban gardens highlight the potential to grow fresh food, beautiful flowers and thriving greenery, even when space is at a premium.

dw



WP/OFF

WP/FibreGlass +
WallSilk®SOL

The **WP/OFF** system is the result of a careful technical research to bring the decorative power of the **Wall/Pepper®** artworks into outdoor areas in contact with running water; the system is composed of the special technical fabrics **WP/FibreGlass** in high-density glass fibre, the two-component polyurethane protective solvent based **WallSilk®SOL**, which is clear and resistant to water, acid rain and ultraviolet rays, and an innovative **silanc glue** with superior water resistance. The **WP/OFF** system is recommended for **outdoor installation** and in all those environments in direct contact with falling water.



INDOOR GARDENING TRENDS

WP/FibreGlass

The WP/FibreGlass technical sheets are ecological, in woven glass fibre, odorless, mould-proof, breathable and certified in class B-s1,d0 for fire resistance. They are easy to lay with the wall glue system thanks to the 94 cm sheets already cut flush without overlap. The technical sheets (especially with woven weft) are very resistant to impacts, tears, abrasions and, thanks to their dimensional stability, they guarantee a consolidation action of the wall, protecting it from cracks and settlement cracks, attenuating the inhomogeneities.

Wal/Silk*SOL

This is a matt, two-component solvent based transparent polyurethane protective coating, to be used in combination with our materials that gives excellent water repellency, excellent resistance to atmospheric agents and greatly increases mechanical resistance, scratch resistance and rubbing, allowing deep cleaning even with professional detergents. Its formulation doesn't contain polluting elements, and after 12-36 hours from the first application it is already possible to perform a further covering coat. The complete drying takes place in 24h and the chemical-physical properties of resistance will be fully operational after 48h. dw

www.wallpeppergroup.com



Hello Winter

Outdoor living spaces are more than just an extension of the home - they are a true reflection of our lifestyle and design sensibilities.

by Stienie Greyling

Designers are focusing on seamless transitions between indoor and outdoor spaces. Gone are the days of a single sliding door leading to the backyard. We are seeing folding glass walls, zero-edge transitions and other innovations that blur the line between indoor and outdoor living.

Gone are the days of single-purpose patios. Outdoor areas now serve multiple roles, from relaxation zones to entertainment hubs and even work-from-home setups. Think built-in seating with hidden storage or outdoor furniture designed for flexibility.

People are turning their backyards into personal sanctuaries. Features like

meditation gardens, yoga decks and spa-inspired hot tubs are helping homeowners prioritise mental and physical well-being. Heating solutions like modern fire pits, infrared heaters and retractable screens are making outdoor spaces usable in all seasons. Weather-resistant furniture ensures comfort and durability year-round.

Eco-conscious choices are at the forefront. From permeable pavers and recycled materials to native and drought-tolerant plants, homeowners are prioritising designs that reduce environmental impact. Smart irrigation systems are also becoming standard features in sustainable landscaping.

Mix materials and colours.

While minimalism will remain a popular trend, we are seeing a shift back to a classic style in design. Mixed materials and bold colours will be re-emerging through more traditional aesthetic. An example of this can be found where oversized pavers and vibrant colours are combined to create design focal points. Unique pieces can make a bold visual statement, especially when there is limited space.

Tranquil colours, especially those that celebrate biodiversity like various colours of green, beige and sepia will be common choices. Completing this look will be pops of naturally vibrant colours, such as sunflower yellow, lavender and colours that bring natural energy. Popular colour tones are predicted to be warmer versions of these perennial favourites.

Outdoor kitchens and entertainment.

The outdoor kitchen is no longer just a grill and a picnic table. Cooking and dining al fresco are more popular than ever in 2025 with fully equipped outdoor culinary hubs. Featuring everything from pizza ovens to wine fridges and even dishwashers, these spaces are designed for serious cooking and entertaining. The focus is on creating a seamless experience where preparing a meal is just as enjoyable as eating it.

Outdoor living trends in the winter are all about entertainment. Expect to see more patios equipped with an outdoor entertainment area, surrounded with sound systems. Whether watching a movie under the stars or hosting a game

night, enjoy an outdoor space designed for hosting. Consider ample seating, built-in bars and areas designed for specific activities.

Smart Patios: Technology meets nature.

Technology is being seamlessly integrated into patio designs, making outdoor spaces not just beautifully, but highly functional. 2025 is the year patios get smarter than ever, allowing one to control outdoor lighting, heating and even the sound system with a tap on a smartphone. From automated pergolas that adjust to the sun's position to wireless charging stations embedded in furniture,

enhancing outdoor living feels both luxurious and practical.

Outdoor living furniture trends.

When it comes to outdoor furniture trends in 2025, natural and organic materials are leading the way. The tendency is to create a harmonious connection with the natural environment. Rattan, wicker and teak, for example, are popular choices that blend with nature effortlessly. These materials look beautiful, while their durability and weather resistance make them perfect for outdoor use.

Modular furniture sets can be rearranged according to activities and are extremely

JEWEL TONES



popular for a reason. These pieces quickly adapt to suit various needs. Whether lounging solo or hosting a large gathering, they allow for endless configurations that can change with the seasons or the occasion. Moreover, adaptable pieces make a good investment, as the collection can grow and evolve with a lifestyle.

Patio furniture in the winter season is anything but boring. Gone are the muted tones of past winters; it is time for bold, expressive designs that bring energy to outdoor spaces. Think vibrant cushions, patterned rugs and colourful scatter cushions that add a pop of personality to the patio. Go for jewel tones and geometric statement patterns, or splash the winter pastels all around. dw



The New Collection

by Ethimo

Another itinerary, a new catalogue, a new narrative. Ethimo presents its 2025 collection with a story in which nature becomes an extraordinary living space.

An emotional and visual journey is taken by Ethimo, starting with the rediscovery of the rich, precious cultural and traditional heritage of Italy. The places presented in the new catalogue reveal outdoor spaces that become exceptional scenes, where the aesthetics, comfort, and functionality of the collections enhance time spent outdoors, creating welcoming, sophisticated spaces in harmony with the surrounding landscape. Special environments for living, socialising, and relaxing.

Each snapshot is therefore an invitation to embrace the beauty of the seasons and explore new ways to experience nature through Ethimo's designs, alluding to that inherent thought in which living outdoors is not only possible, but forms a lifestyle that enriches, transforms, and improves everyday activities.

Apulia, a mosaic of natural beauty, a land of history and culture, traditions, and a marvellous array of panoramas from the coast inland, is the new 'stop' on Ethimo's journey through outdoor living.



Allaperto, Nautic, Thun & Rodriguez



Costes, Ethimo



Baia, Yacht Collection, Christophe Pillet



Esedra, IconiGardens, Luca Nichetto



Calipso, Ilaria Marelli



GrandLife, Christophe Pillet

HELLO WINTER

veins and shades in the marble, ceramic surfaces, wrought iron shapes, and natural stone in the new products blend perfectly with the architecture and atmosphere of the two scenes, a continuous interaction between contemporary design and tradition.

Patio, Boldini, Lustra, Folia, and Innesti recall the typical craftsmanship of this land, presenting a modern interpretation of materials that have always been part of Italian tradition, providing new inspiration for furnishing outdoor areas.

The 2025 Catalogue

The new 'book' opens with 'New for 2025', particularly with the main collection Patio designed by Studio Zanellato/Bortotto. This line of lounge and dining furniture with accommodating shapes and cocooning, stands out for its creative use of weaving combined with the natural beauty of teak.

This is followed by the Boldini collection, inspired by the Bold sculpted table. The top of these coffee tables is made of Rosso Francia marble, Verde Guatemala marble, or Sabbia travertine, with a bright shiny finish and legs made of enamelled ceramic.

Lustra, the spectacular floor lamp, and Folia, the original stool-table, are the new projects designed by Luca Nichetto, furnishings that focus on an authentic,



Knit, Patrick Norguet



Sling, Studiopepe



Rafael, Paola Navone



Swing, Patrick Norguet

passionate reinterpretation of traditional wrought iron work. Every detail reflects the artisan care and contemporary vision that Ethimo and Luca Nichetto dedicate to this ancient material.

Innesti are the new lightweight concrete vases designed by Studiopepe. The collection consists of three different models that can individually serve their purpose or, together, create configurations to hold different compositions of plants and flowers.

The new items are followed by 'Iconic Collections', a section dedicated to lines and accessories that recount a story, thought, or emotion, the evolution of contemporary outdoor living that has become a characteristic for Ethimo.

The rediscovered 'Outdoor Extras' section, which was new in the previous catalogue, continues to recount the important, captivating projects that go beyond the traditional concept of outdoor furniture - items that will give rise to original scenes and ways of living under the open sky.

As the conclusion to the catalogue, we find 'Timeless Collections', product lines and solutions designed and created to remain elegant, versatile, and functional, capable of integrating harmoniously in any outdoor context while remaining up to date and remarkable over time. dw

www.ethimo.com



Kilt, Marcello Ziliani



Patio, Studio Zanellato, Bortotto



Rotin, Studio Zanellato, Bortotto



Venexia, Luca Nichetto

Beauty Fires is honoured to launch the Forge Fires Collection nationally:

An Affordable New Locally Made Fireplace Range

A new collection of locally manufactured, closed combustion fireplaces that combine solid build quality, performance and clean design – at a price that makes sense.

For years, South Africa's fireplace market has been dominated by high-end European brands and lower-cost Chinese imports. While European products are known for their refined performance, rising costs have made them less attainable. On the other hand, many of the more affordable imported units from the Far East fall short in output, pollution control and durability. They are often made with thinner steel and their basic designs are suited to smaller, freestanding models.

Forge Fires addresses this situation. Manufactured in South Africa from premium-grade steel, the closed

combustion range includes both insert and freestanding fireplaces.

The designs apply well-established airflow technology, resulting in units that burn cleanly, heat efficiently, and are built to last.

"We didn't just want to make another fireplace,"

says Johnny Theart, Production Supervisor.

"The Forge units are built tough and designed to impress. Every detail matters because they need to perform every winter for years to come."

A highlight of the range is the I120/F120 – currently the largest hinged-door wood burning closed combustion fireplace available in South Africa. At 1200mm wide, it offers generous heating capacity without sacrificing style.

Additionally, the Forge Fires inserts have been specifically designed to replace standard open wood-burning units without needing to break or rebuild the cavity, making them a practical solution for renovations and upgrades.

The Forge Fires range combines practical design and quality manufacturing and is ideal for contractors, architects, designers, and homeowners alike.

Available at all Beauty Fires stores, Forge Fires is made in Cape Town and designed with South African homes in mind. 

www.forgefires.co.za





How to make your space feel bright and warm this winter

by Dulux



As the days grow shorter and the evenings turn cooler, it's the perfect time to maximise natural light and create a feeling of warmth in your home.

Palesa Ramaisa, Dulux Colour Expert, shares tips on how to brighten up your space and add a cosy touch to your space this winter:

Bring the sunshine in

Colour plays a crucial role in creating a mood in any room, and this season we want to create a mood that is warm and inviting. Bring the sunshine in by painting an accent wall with light terracotta or yellows – a sunny hue can brighten and warm a dark space.

Warmer curtains

Replace your summer sheers with thermal-lined curtains to keep warm air inside and prevent the cold air from seeping through the glass. Curtains with warmer, thicker threads will create an inviting atmosphere in your space.

Create cosy comfort with cushions and throws

Want to create a comfortable and inviting space? Layering a few cushions

and throws is a simple yet effective way to add warmth and texture to any room. Plush cushions provide softness and support, while throws add an extra layer of comfort, perfect for those chilly evenings. These accessories can help transform the ambience of any living space and are easily adaptable to fit seasonal themes or personal tastes. The choice of colours and patterns showcases personal style, but bright colour cushions can bring warmth and vibrancy to your interior this autumn.

Lighting

Winter often brings darker weather; use layered lighting such as table lamps, floor lamps, and candles throughout your house to enhance the mood and add a cosy glow. Incorporate light at various heights and angles to create a warm and inviting environment. Keep your curtains open to let in natural light and refresh your lampshades with brighter tones this autumn to enhance lighting in your home.

For more tips, colour inspiration and ideas on how to add pride, imagination and creativity to your home or workspace, visit the Dulux social media pages, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or Pinterest

dw

www.dulux.co.za/en



Catrinel Sabaciag Showcases New Transformative Light Sculptures at Index Dubai 2025

Dubai, United
Arab Emirates

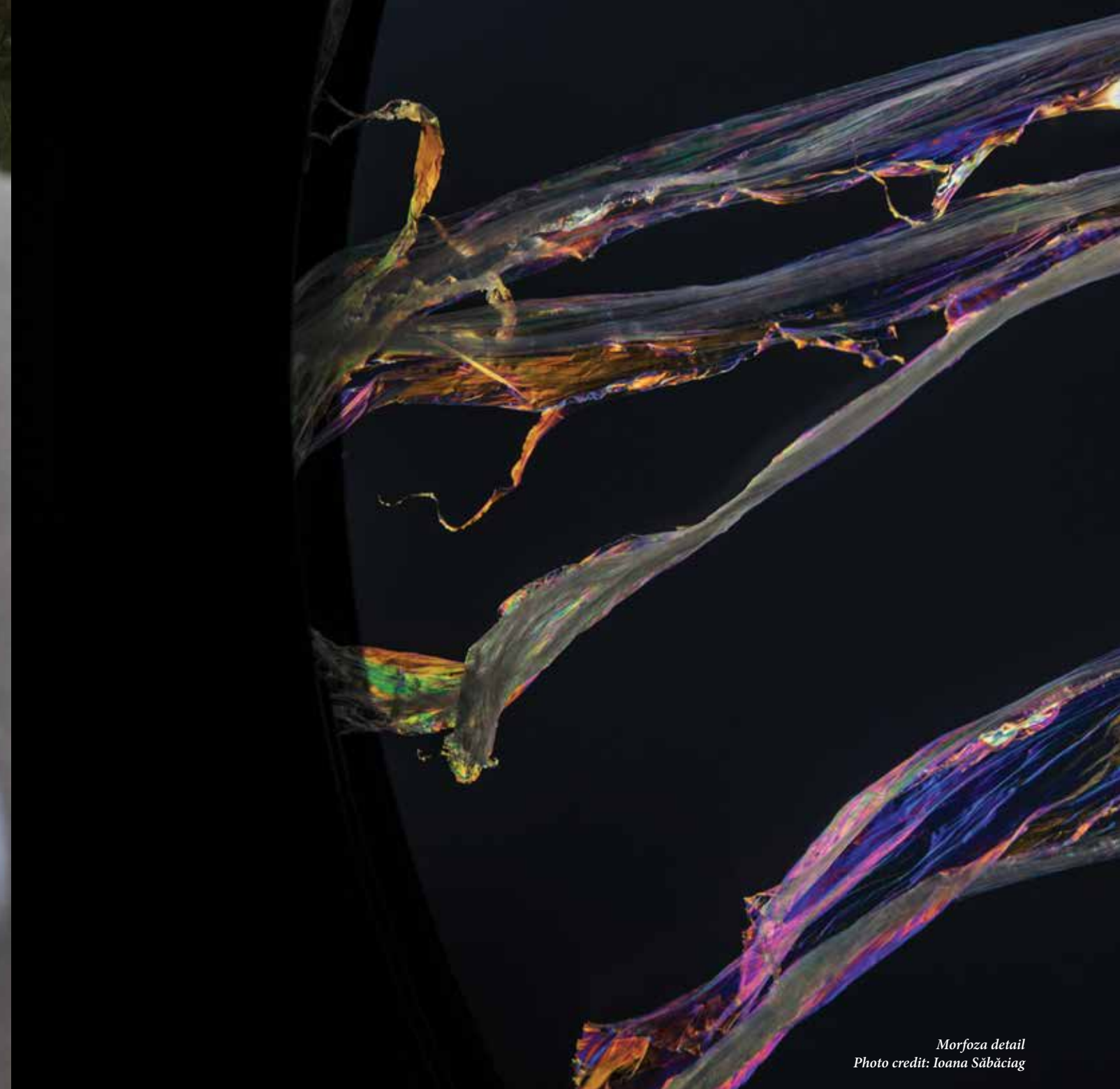
Artist and designer Catrinel Sabaciag will present her work for the first time in the Middle East at Dubai Index, stand 2D90, from May 27th to 29th. Known for creating sculptural pieces that blur the line between light and form, utility and contemplation, Sabaciag marks the first eight years of practice with a selection of works that trace her evolving language. Alongside key pieces from past collections, she will unveil new works including the In Bloom pendant lamp, a final piece from the Morfoza series, and the new Zenit lamp.

Morfoza

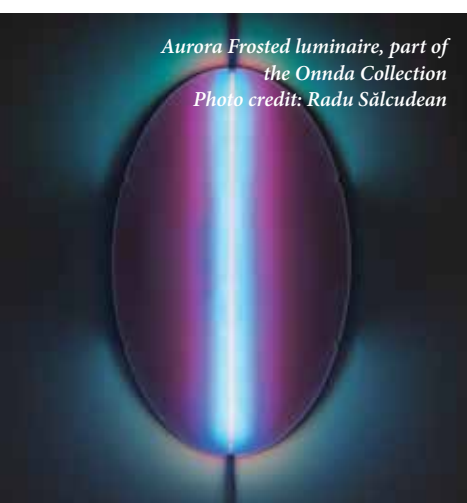
Morfoza is the result of seven years of exploration into materials and optics. Crafted from aluminum and inox in Transylvania, this wall-mounted light sculpture uses a combination of humble materials, such as transparent plastic foams, foils, and crystals. While these elements may seem unassuming, when layered between optical filters inside the piece, they interact with light to reveal vibrant, shifting hues. Importantly,



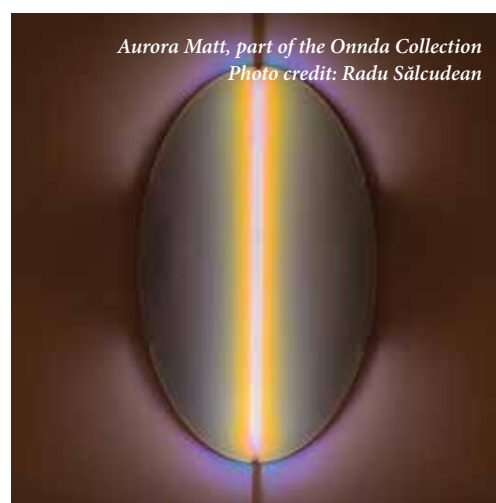
*Aurora Gloss luminaire, smart function
Photo credit: Oana Andreea Cristurean*



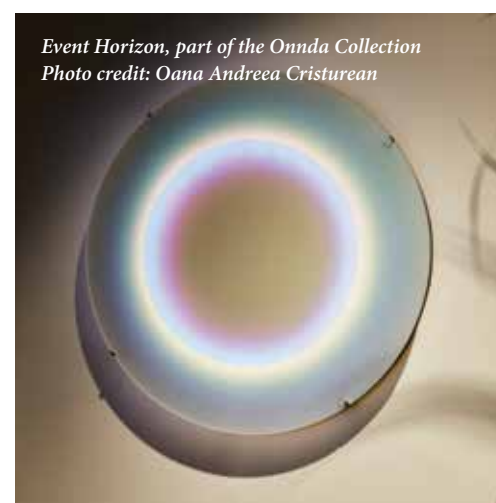
*Morfoza detail
Photo credit: Ioana Săbăciag*



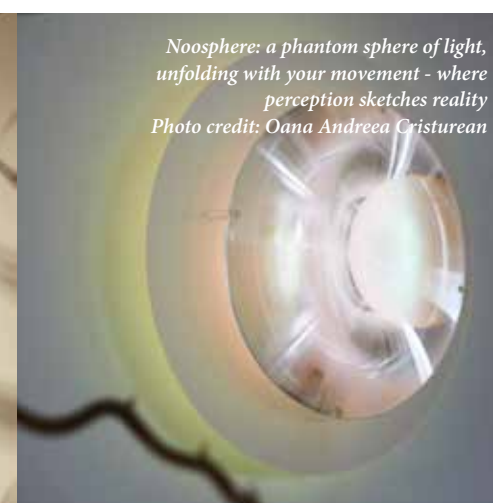
*Aurora Frosted luminaire, part of
the Onnda Collection
Photo credit: Radu Sălcudean*



*Aurora Matt, part of the Onnda Collection
Photo credit: Radu Sălcudean*



*Event Horizon, part of the Onnda Collection
Photo credit: Oana Andreea Cristurean*



*Noosphere: a phantom sphere of light,
unfolding with your movement - where
perception sketches reality
Photo credit: Oana Andreea Cristurean*



*Morfoza wall
Photo credit: Radu Sălcudean*



*Morfoza, gradient filter
Photo credit: Radu Sălcudean*



Morfoza detail
Photo credit: Ioana Săbăciag

Morfoza uses no coloured light—only pure white light. Through refraction and interference, colours unfold from within it, a quiet reminder that the full visible spectrum is already held within what appears neutral.

The viewer is invited to rotate the central frame, a gesture that subtly alters the light's intensity and colour. This act of participation makes each encounter unique, transforming a static object into a responsive, engaging event. By reframing how we see everyday materials, Morfoza questions our assumptions about beauty and worth. Each piece is hand-finished and produced in a limited edition of eighty-eight.

In recognition of its innovation and craftsmanship, Morfoza was awarded the LIT Design Award for Accent Décorative Lamps in 2024 and received the Transylvanian Design Award in 2023.



Event Horizon - a light object echoing the gravitational pull of black holes
Photo credit: Ioana Săbăciag

InBloom

Making its debut at Index Dubai, the InBloom pendant lamp is the newest piece in the Onda collection—an exploration of light, movement, and iridescence. Inspired by the gentle gesture of a flower opening, the piece holds a central light source nestled like a pistil between two dichroic glass disks, scattering shifting

colours across the ceiling in a quiet, ever-changing blooming; downward, it offers a more focused, functional beam. The result is a lamp that balances atmosphere with clarity—both sculptural and purposeful, atmospheric and precise.

Zenit

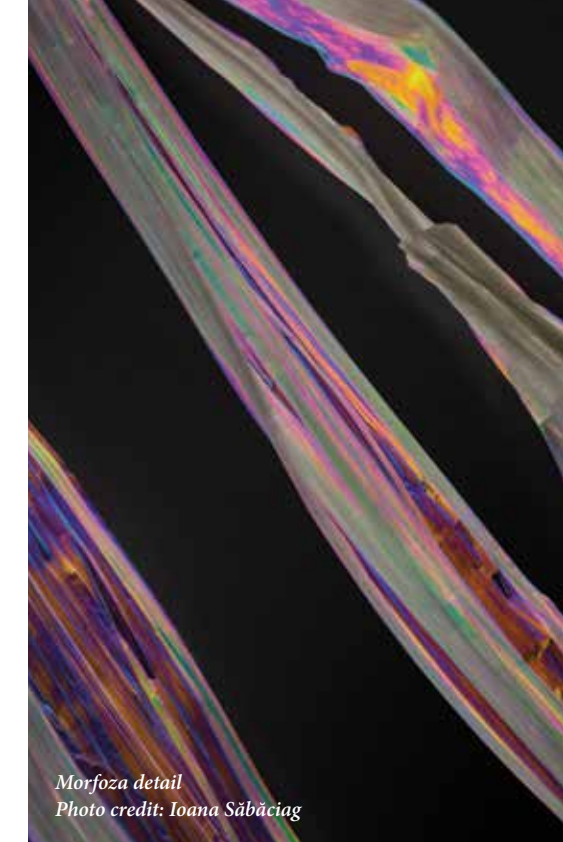
Created specifically for the Index Dubai, the Zenit lamp draws inspiration from the natural landscape of the region, capturing

the colours of the dunes and the warmth of the desert sun. This piece marks a first for Catrinel Sabaciag, incorporating only natural materials—onyx, brass, fused glass, and a unique crystal sourced from the heart of Transylvania. The onyx base, crafted into a triangle, sits parallel to the ground, with carefully slotted fused glass sheets that present several versions of gradient hues, reminiscent of sunsets in the Arabic territory. A brass disc anchors the opposite

side, where the crystal allows light to pass through, creating a subtle, décorative glow. The Zenit lamp offers two lighting options: a focused beam from the central light, or a softer, ambient light that travels through the stone edge, creating a versatile piece that is both functional and evocative.

Murmur


In addition to the individual pieces, Sabaciag will present a sample of a



Morfoza detail
Photo credit: Ioana Săbăciag

large-scale installation inspired by the murmuration of birds. This evocative piece, composed of many small dichroic elements, creates shifting reflections and colours as it interacts with the surrounding environment. Ideal for architectural settings, the installation can be customised to suit specific spaces, creating a dynamic and evolving effect. The Murmur installation invites contemplation, shifting like the movement of nature itself.

Technical sheet

- Index Dubai, World Trade Center, May 27 to 29, 2025, Stand 2D90
- **Production collaborators:** CCI Technology, PMA Invest
- **Photographer:** Radu Sălcudean, Oana Andreea Cristurean 

www.catrinelsabaciag.com



Morfoza- stripes pattern filter
Photo credit: Radu Sălcudean



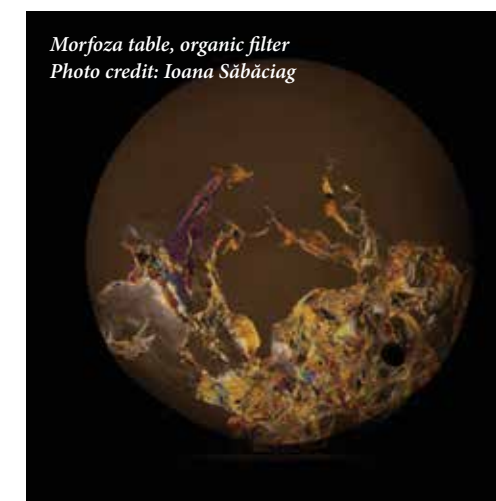
Morfoza wall, organic filter
Photo credit: Radu Sălcudean



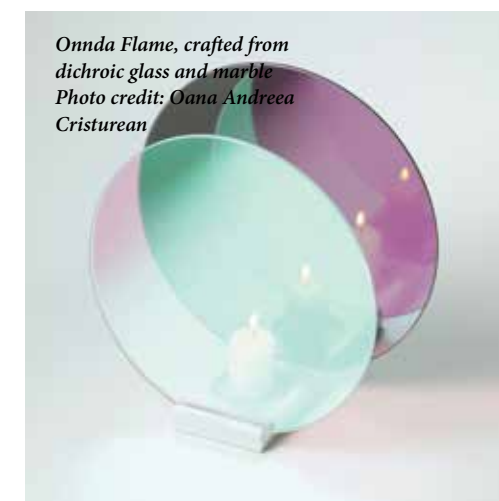
Morfoza table, stripes filter
Photo credit: Radu Sălcudean



*Totem luminaire,
part of the Onda
Collection*
Photo credit: Radu
Sălcudean



Morfoza table, organic filter
Photo credit: Ioana Săbăciag



*Onda Flame, crafted from
dichroic glass and marble*
Photo credit: Oana Andreea
Cristurean



Rediscovering Luxury Through Circular Design in Verbier

Val de Bagnes, Switzerland

Exterior view of Chalet 1936 in Verbier, Switzerland.

Rediscovering Luxury Through Circular Design in Verbier

Val de Bagnes, Switzerland

Interior designer Marianne Tiegen has completed the renovation of a former hotel in Verbier, Switzerland, transforming it into a private residence for a family based in London. Located in the heart of the Swiss Alps, the 1,000-square-metre property has been redesigned as a seasonal retreat with a focus on reclaimed materials and bespoke detailing.

The project began with a clear goal: to reuse existing resources whenever possible. Tiegen sourced furniture and architectural elements from antique markets, second-hand dealers, and reclaimed construction sites. Many of the pieces were adapted or repurposed by local artisans to suit the specific needs of the home.

In the main living areas, Belgian linen sofas were custom-made and paired with coffee tables made from salvaged wood. Fireplaces from previous centuries were restored and reinstalled. A zinc gutter, originally used in an agricultural setting, was suspended above a 15-foot-long wooden dining table and reimagined as a light fixture.

Throughout the property, the materials have been selected to age naturally over time. The walls are covered in mineral-based limestone



Living room with bespoke Belgian linen sofas, reclaimed wood coffee table, and antique fireplace.



Home office with vintage Florence Knoll desk and mercury mirror collage.





Dining area with a bespoke oak table and reupholstered 18th-century Os de Mouton chairs. The pendant light was designed by Marianne Tiegen using a reclaimed Parisian zinc gutter.

paint and finished with cladding from dismantled alpine barns. The palette includes a range of neutral tones, with an emphasis on earth browns and soft creams.

In the bedrooms, reclaimed beams and antique textiles define the atmosphere. Bathrooms feature restored basins, vintage mirrors, and stone surfaces. These details, combined with a restrained use of colour and natural finishes, support a consistent design approach throughout the residence.

The Verbier project, named “1936” after the year the original hotel was built, was developed over several seasons, and reflects Tiegen’s ongoing interest in circular design methods. The goal was to create a space that is comfortable, durable, and tied to its context through the reuse of local materials.

Tiegen’s approach avoids mass production and standardisation. Instead, the home has been furnished with a mix of French antiques from the 18th and 19th centuries, mid-century American and European design, and vernacular alpine objects. Every item was selected with the intention of retaining its original character, even when adapted for a new purpose.

This renovation joins a growing number of projects across Europe and North America where Tiegen applies similar principles. The designer often collaborates with craftspeople to extend the life cycle of furniture and textiles, seeking out natural dyes, repurposed objects, and construction salvage.

The Verbier residence is part of Marianne Tiegen Interiors’ wider portfolio of residential and hospitality projects across Switzerland,

France, and the United States. The studio works on both renovations and new constructions, always with a focus on material quality, environmental consideration, and long-term use.

Technical sheet

- Project name: Chalet 1936
- Location: Verbier, Switzerland
- Altitude: 1,500 metres
- Completion year: 2024
- Client: Private, London-based family
- Surface area: 1,000 square metres
- Project type: Residential (former hotel converted into private home)
- Number of bedrooms: Eight en suite bedrooms
- Key features: Cinema, gym, indoor pool, office, multiple lounges
- Design lead: Marianne Tiegen
- Photography: J. Wilson
- Design approach: Circular design, reuse of reclaimed and antique materials, contextual sensitivity

Notable furnishings and materials:

- Living room: Belgian linen sofas, reclaimed wood tables, antique fireplaces
- Dining room: Reclaimed oak table, antique dining chairs, zinc gutter pendant
- Kitchen: Reclaimed oak cabinetry, concrete countertop
- Bedrooms: Antique linens, copper bathtubs, vintage furnishings
- Bathrooms: Reclaimed troughs, antique mirrors, wooden shelving
- Office: Florence Knoll desk, mercury mirror collage
- Pool area: Neon hotel sign, bespoke loungers from reclaimed wood

dw

www.mariannetiegen.com



Copper bathtub and arched vintage mirror next to an antique linen sofa.



Stone-clad fireplace with antique finish, surrounded by natural textures and soft neutrals.





Waldorf Astoria Seychelles Platte Island: A New Era of Luxury in the Seychelles

Platte Island, Seychelles

Aerial View of the Resort Centre



Aerial View of the Villa



Spa

Waldorf Astoria Seychelles Platte Island: A New Era of Luxury in the Seychelles

Platte Island, Seychelles

Waldorf Astoria Seychelles Platte Island is situated on a secluded private island, 130 kilometres south of Mahé in the Indian Ocean. Designed by the award-winning firm Eco-id Architects, the resort emerges as a serene sanctuary where luxury intertwines harmoniously with eco-conscious design.

Inspired by the island's vibrant flora and fauna, the resort's architecture and interiors embody a meticulous fusion of opulence and environmental mindfulness. The main buildings echo the beautiful coloured and patterned tortoiseshell of the native Hawksbill turtles, forming faceted shapes that create light and airy canopies throughout the arrival building, resort center, and villas. Sensitively positioned away from the shoreline, the villas boast expansive gardens that provide a serene haven for nesting sea turtles.

The resort's exclusive location on a private island with its own runway provides an exceptional experience, and amenities such as a kids' club, outdoor observatory, tennis courts, and marine conservation discovery centre make for a well-rounded luxury escape.



Arrival Building



All Day Dining - La Perle - Outdoor Seating



Spa



Specialty Restaurant - Maison des Epices



Villa - Bathroom



Spa Entrance



Specialty Restaurant - Maison des Epices



Peacock Terrace

The resort's commitment to sustainability is evident through the use of a solar field for renewable energy, while its six restaurants and bars utilise fresh produce grown on the island itself. Guests can indulge in wellness treatments at the on-site spa and immerse themselves in a stunning natural setting with native marine life.

Every aspect, from the carefully chosen materials designed to withstand the tropical humid marine environment, to the textures and patterns derived from nature's palette, reflects a profound respect for the island's natural splendour. Waldorf Astoria Seychelles Platte Island promises guests a truly immersive experience where luxury and environmental consciousness unite in perfect harmony amidst the unspoiled beauty of Platte Island.

Technical sheet

- **Accommodation:** 50 seafront villas in various configurations, including 1, 2, 3, and 5-bedroom villas.
- **Dining:** six restaurants and bars, offering culinary experiences from garden-to-table to sustainable seafood.
- **Examples:** La Perle brasserie (Mediterranean seafood), Maison des Epices (Creole-Latino flavors), Moulin (soil-to-soul).
- **Spa & Wellness:** A spa with wellness technology, therapies, and treatments using sustainable ingredients.
- **Fitness:** A fitness centre with Technogym equipment and an open-air studio for classes.
- **Other amenities:** Outdoor pool, tennis court, beach access, water sports, and more.

dw

www.ecoid.com

www.hilton.com/en/hotels/sezpiwa-waldorf-astoria-seychelles-platte-island



Specialty Restaurant - Moulin



Villa Interior

S House

Urla, Türkiye



S House

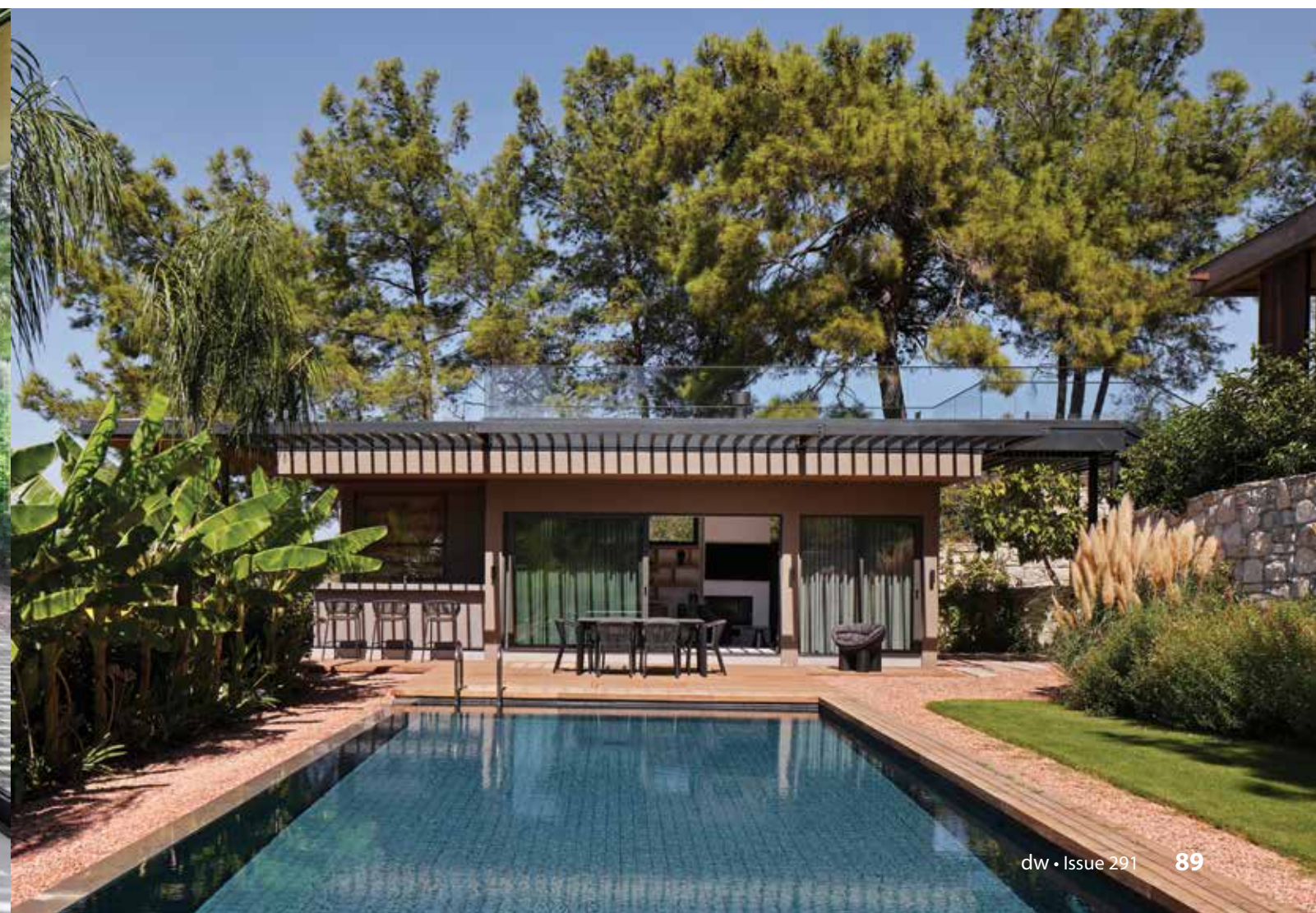
Urla, Türkiye

In Türkiye, on the sloping terrain of Kekliktepe, Urla, S House is a luxury residence that underwent a profound transformation, evolving from an existing structure with a basic envelope and foundational systems into a sophisticated architectural statement. Entrusted to Ofisvesaire, the project began by revisiting the initial building's framework, where the structural system was reimagined to allow a reorganisation of the floor plan and massing. This revision culminated in the integration of a composite system, blending reinforced concrete with architectural elements that redefine the home's identity. A notable feature of the transformation is the addition of a pergola with a flexible glass façade, enhancing spatial fluidity and visual connection by seamlessly blending interior and exterior spaces.

The entrance serves as a calm, welcoming threshold, guiding visitors from the exterior into the living areas. The warm interplay of wood and marble sets the tone for a seamless transition to the adjoining spaces, including the kitchen and other living areas accessed via open corridors. At the heart of S House, the living room establishes a formal yet inviting atmosphere, incorporating a dining area and a separate lounge. As visitors move through a set of semi-transparent sliding doors, the space expands, creating an effortless connection between the interior and exterior. The visual and physical link to the terrace and garden vistas enhances the sense of openness and connectivity, generating a dynamic interplay between transparency, materiality, and spatial layers.

This spatial fluidity is further emphasized through the thoughtful arrangement of walls, movable façades, and niches. These elements provide flexibility, allowing for the reconfiguration of indoor and outdoor spaces to suit various levels of privacy and functional needs. This sense of dynamism is mirrored in the dialogue between rooms,







reinforcing spatial continuity and sequence. At the end of the corridor that connects the bedrooms and other private spaces, a unique work of alternating artwork becomes a focal point, grounding the design's sense of rhythm and flow. The master bedroom, two guest rooms, and a hobby room are accompanied by distinct service areas, ensuring that the functional diversity of the house is matched by the seamless organisation of space.

The outdoors, just as thoughtfully designed as the interiors, cater to a variety of activities. The pool house, gym, and parking lot are carefully arranged to maintain connectivity, while responding to the site's topography. The redesigned landscape complements these new spaces, reinforcing the tactile and visual relationships between the structures. A commitment to continuity and proximity in the outdoor spaces enhances the holistic architectural language of S House.

The carefully selected materials - wood, steel, and stone - create a harmonious connection between the house and its surroundings. This natural palette accentuates the landscape, further integrating the home into its environment, while evoking a serene, oasis-like atmosphere. Sunlight, a key design element, dynamically interacts with the textures and forms within each space, casting shifting shadows that enrich the experience of the interiors. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the master bathroom, where a skylight filters light through wooden shading elements, creating a play of light and shadow on the stone wall - a poetic reflection of time's passage.

At S House, layering forms the foundation for spatial depth and experiential richness. The seamless interplay of architecture, landscape, and light fosters continuous discovery, creating a transformative living experience that harmonises with its ever-changing surroundings.

Technical sheet

- Completion Year: 2022
- Gross Built Area (m²/ ft²): 550 m²
- Project Location: Urla, Türkiye
- Programme / Use / Building Function: Residential Design, Renovation, Interior Design
- Landscape Design: Kardelen Peyzaj
- Photo and Video credit: Kadir Asnaz

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TAIL OF THE DOG

Art Deco on the East Rand

The Johannesburg Heritage Foundation recently organised a tour to Springs, of all places. This is an old mining town on the far East Rand, but it is home to the largest collection of small Art Deco buildings in the world.

Art Deco is a style labelled after the architecture and design of the turn of the 20th century, mostly applied in the 1930s. It encompasses the ideas of speed and new modes of transport, glamorous aeroplane and ship travel, and often incorporates elements of Inca and Egyptian design (Tutankhamen's tomb was discovered in 1922).

So why Springs? It was a boom town in the 30s, riding on the crest of the gold mining all along the Reef that runs through Johannesburg and continues east and west. The town was laid out in a grid, with numbered avenues running east and west and streets north and south. Along the railway line were hotels, markets, and

boarding houses, and in between were shops on the ground with housing above. Some of the shops were large department stores, others were simple trading stores. The buildings themselves are simple, many needing more than just a facelift, but some are in good condition, with interesting paint colours. The shop fronts have been ruined with roll-down doors and vulgar signage, but the main façades remain constant to their origins. Fine detailing in the wrought iron railings and curved balconies is part of most of the buildings, but every now and then one building stands out. The Fire Station has a long sweeping façade, with a splendid crest above the main wooden doors of a pair of dragons, carved out of clay and painted in bright colours.

Another city with a superb Art Deco heritage is Napier, in New Zealand. This town was severely damaged by an earthquake in 1931, and the seabed rose creating 7500 acres of virgin land, where young up and

coming architects were able to build new buildings. Because of the great Depression of the 1930s, they had to use inexpensive materials and make sure the buildings were reinforced against further earthquakes. Art Deco was the perfect style for this. In 1985 an Art Deco film was screened in Napier, an Art Deco Trust was formed, which gave rise to an Art Deco Festival, when thousands of people come from all over the world to admire the buildings, with guides in period dress taking them around in vintage cars. This has become an annual event and has been a huge boost to tourism in the town, and to the preservation of this style of architecture.

I thought about Springs and wondered if there could ever be a similar revival there – maybe not with a Festival, but particularly with the restoration of the beautiful buildings there.

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