



Design in context

Fresh from Maison & Objet held in Paris, here are some handpicked products that made news this year



Mademoiselle

Designer Christopher Guy's latest collection is inspired by contemporary tones and classical values. Embodying the very nature and culture of the Parisian woman's mindset, the furniture and accessories in this collection have an encompassing feeling of elegance and femininity that prevails throughout. One of the hallmarks of the Mademoiselle collection is the impressive La Salle de Sejour, the curvaceous sofa with a ribbed silk trim.

"La Salle de Sejour depicts the grandeur of a Parisian apartment," says Guy. His collections are retailed through Harrods in London and an exclusive flagship store in Singapore. More of the collection can be seen on www.christopherguy.com.



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Under The Palm tree

Inspired by tropical palm trees, Palm Shower offers innovative design, mixing modernity and fluidity. Designed by France-based Dometti, its sculptural lines integrate perfectly in diverse environments to offer a multitude of services. The sculpted leaves hide a complex system of misting, showering and LED lighting that is adjustable to different situations. From chromo therapy to music, all is accessible and controlled with remote access that extends even to the iPhone. The product can be customised as per individual's requirement also.



Paper Planes

Designed by Indian-born Nipa Doshi and her Scottish husband Jonathan Levien for the brand Moroso, these armchairs are a result of two cultures. Doshi is influenced by the visual and material culture of India, and Levien is rooted in industrial design. Together, their work celebrates cultural hybridism and explores a combination of technology, narration and industrial and craft design. (www.doshilevien.com). Featured here is Hors Piste, a thin, paper plane structure of the seats meeting an extremely light, visual, architectural language.

Printed Impressions

Print memories on your furniture! Innovation and design combined with traditional and classic looks is what best defines Jet Class furniture. Based in Portugal, the company is known for integrating technology and daily living. Featured here is the Capri collection sideboard inspired by the Paris cityscape. The traditional chest of drawers has been finished in high metallic gloss. The colours and graffiti used evoke the unexpected, giving these pieces an irreverent and yet a nostalgic aura.



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Real Illusions

Is it a potted plant or a funky curio? That will be a no on both counts. SPICY artifact collection by the Italian company, Legnoart brings unique design and integrates it with functionality to everyday basic kitchen tools, such as knives, bottle openers and pizza cutters. "The idea is to create a prototype that looks far from its actual function creating an illusion and excitement in the user's mind," explains designer Enrico Albertini. The design is uniquely balanced; not too futuristic, nor too traditional. Check out www.legnoart.it



Woven Symphony

End all design woes and finally have an entertainment lounge that is not only visually appealing but one that also reverberates the perfect notes. Produced by Anne Kyyro Quinn studio, these are acoustic panels made from natural fabrics. Cut, sewn and finished by hand, it's a new genre of interior textiles based on three-dimensional structure that integrate acoustical properties. It is based on 18 core designs inspired by organic shapes and expressed with Scandinavian simplicity. The bold colours, rich textures and striking motifs can be crafted into cushions, throws, table runners, wall-panels or blinds.

Re-ignite An Old Flame

Old-world charm revisits your home through this printed back fauteuil by Amadeus (www.amadeus-online.net). Based on photography depicting renaissance moods, the monochromatic printed back beautifully aligns with a Flemish Decor. This piece of furniture, acts as a striking break in a space without being over-bearing. The company, based in France, provides a collection in tableware, furnishing textiles, furniture and home accessories. Their collections are sensibly divided into Family Mansion, Walking Around the Stud and Flemish Home to cater to the specific requirements and tastes.



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New Dimensions

This product is called the Happy Hour Cross and is designed by Twenty First Design Lab from Italy. A modular unit made of polyethylene plastic that has translucent properties and, which emits radiance when lit, this piece works equally well for an outdoor as well as an indoor space. The company specialises in simple innovations reached through intense research and collaborations with Italian designers. The results are a new dimension of perception for the senses. It aims to connect emotional creativity with rational design, desire with satisfaction, fantasy with reality and beauty with functionality.

In Full Bloom

Award-winning Philippine designer, Kenneth Cobonpue, unveiled his latest collection at Maison & Objet. The designs include products that integrate locally sourced organic materials with innovative handmade production techniques providing an alternative to the western definition of modern design. Shown here is the Bloom Easy chair, inspired by nature and resembling the petals of a flower. Bloom is handmade from microfiber, stitched over a resin top with a steel base. This lounge chair is sculpted by hundreds of fine running stitches radiating from the center of the seat creating a subtle textural feel.



Classic Art Deco Meets Sino-French Aesthetics

Jean Boggio for Franz, a furniture and accessory collection has been created in a collaboration between Franz Chen and French designer Jean Boggio, who has previously designed for famous brands, such as Hermes, Ritz and Chopard. This collaboration delivered graceful fashion that integrated Eastern and Western aesthetics. The brand inherits the Eastern philosophy of Zhuangzi which means born with nature, and unified with all beings. The collection not only plays with Sino-French aesthetics to create a colourful fantasy, with trans-cultural ambiance and beautiful colours but is also a reinterpretation of 'new Chinese style'. The exquisite porcelain furniture and textiles have tried to recreate the glory of Rococo. www.franzcollection.com



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