

More to explore across the city...

Away from the bustle of the fair, the Fuorisalone offers a plethora of extra inspiration



'LunaNova', Occhio

When it comes to luxury lighting, German brand Occhio is a name synonymous with innovation. Which is why its 'Lunanova' installation, created especially for design week, is one to add to your calendar. The celestial installation will illuminate the brand's sleek Milan flagship store on Corso Monforte 13, with recent collections such as 'Luna' (pictured) on show, as well as other yet-to-be-revealed releases. occhio.com



'The art of dreams', Porsche

After something a little more interactive? At the Palazzo Clerici – home to some of Milan's most impressive frescoes – Porsche and the design collective Numen/For Use invite you to climb and explore the hammock-like structure (pictured above), which is part of 'The Art of Dreams' event. Comprised of metal frames and netting, the installation is designed to look like a floating landscape, and is inspired by the 'Pepita' houndstooth pattern first used on the seats of the '356 C, 911' Porsche. A limited furniture collection by Vitra for the automaker will also be unveiled. porsche.com

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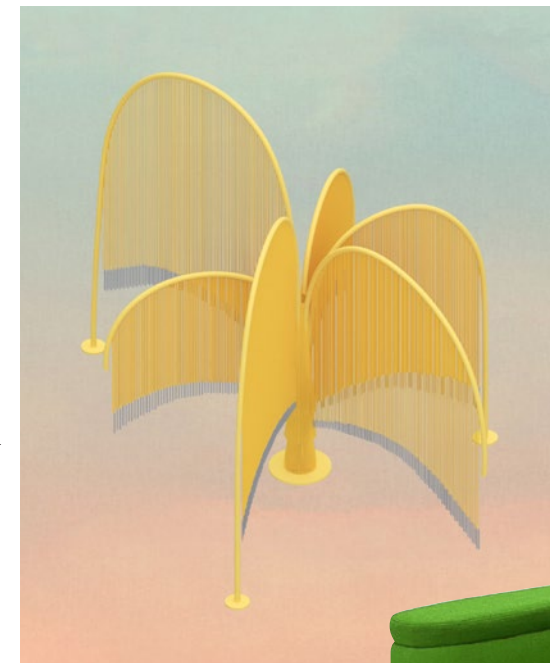
'1st', Ikea

Remember the first time you decorated your room in student halls? Or the feeling of hanging new curtains in your first rented flat? Ikea is taking you right back to that moment with this exhibition at Visconti Pavilion exploring the many firsts that younger generations experience when they first move out and begin designing places to call home. Throughout the week, the Swedish furniture giant will run a programme that includes new product launches, music and events focused on the concept of 'first time'. ikea.com



5VIE

Head to the design district 5VIE (arguably Milan's craftiest corner) where Artemest's L'Appartamento (read our preview with one of its designers, Charu Ghandi, on p176) can be found, alongside a multitude of exhibitors. We suggest passing by Palazzo Litta to see interdisciplinary artist Sara Ricciardi's installation 'Under the Willow Tree' (pictured) – a fabric bough with metal branches that chime to create sweet melodies. Elsewhere, 5VIE has commissioned six international designers to produce new works under this year's theme, 'Unlimited Design Orchestra', which aims to use the musical orchestra as 'models to inspire a design increasingly focused on an intrinsically human and humanistic dimension'. 5vie.it



'Industrial Artisans', 44Spazio

British designer and founder of the Memphis design movement George Sowden will this year be using his permanent Milanese base, 44Spazio, to showcase pieces by international designers who are working closely with small industrial and artisan manufacturers. Among the designs on display will be his own, typically colourful chair, the 'Sowden Club' (pictured below), produced at the SCP upholstery factory in Norfolk. sowden.it; scp.co.uk



Nilufar Depot

Designers including Allegra Hicks, Lucia Massari, Ranieri and last year's stars of the event Objects of Common Interest will showcase works at the more industrial of the two locations that Milanese gallery Nilufar calls home. Founder and owner Nina Yashar (pictured) has curated the works under the theme 'Time Traveller', selecting pieces that weave together 'the cutting-edge works of contemporary talents with the enduring masterpieces by design legends of the past'. Nilufar Gallery's own collection of purchasable items, 'Open Edition', will be unveiled there, too. Over the sprawling ground floor, visitors will be welcomed by Argentinian digital artist-designer Andrés Reisinger's (also pictured) 'Twelve Chairs for Meditation'. Don't expect the chairs to look anything like his viral 'Hortensia' for Moooi, though; these sculptural beauties are solid, no-nonsense pieces that reflect the designer's changing style. nilufar.com





House of Switzerland

Embrace your inner child at this showcase of Swiss talent, where swings, ladders and seesaws encourage visitors to take part in its theme: joy. There's work by Swiss designers Hannes & Fritz for Hay and Vero on display (including 'Weekday', pictured), as well as Big-Game's new range for Karimoku. Explore the first floor of its venue, Casa degli Artisti, to find work from emerging talents – Scheidegger Pauli's 'Vidy' chair will be a highlight. design.swiss

Capsule Plaza

Part fair, part collective exhibition, Capsule Plaza is taking over the Spazio Maiocchi – a striking industrial cathedral in the Porta Venezia area – to bring together designers and brands from all over the world. Among the highlights will be Poltronova, celebrating 60 years of its 'Saratoga' sofa by Massimo and Lella Vignelli. To mark the occasion, the brand has enlisted in-demand designer Harry Nuriev to create a revamped version. The festival will also take over the renovated and super-edgy concept store '10 Corso Como' (below), where an immersive Verner Panton experience, in collaboration with the designer's estate, will be taking place. capsule.global



Majotae

Launching during design week, this Japanese textile brand intends to make a splash with installations in two venues across the city – Secci Milano and Berta. The former will display its inaugural bedding collection 'Majotae 9490' (the number is the average days a person spends asleep in their lifetime) using natural hemp cloth, while the latter will house research on the heritage of the textile. majotae9490.com

Buccellati

Possibly the dark horse of Milan design week, Italian jewellery brand Buccellati will launch a stunning picnic basket at its new silver boutique, situated in the striking Palazzo Gavazzi court. Designed by Patricia Urquiola, the 'Tahiti Picnic Basket' riffs on the natural wonders of the Polynesian islands. Its exterior is made from wood and brown leather, while the interior is lined by a suede fabric – ideal for outdoor gatherings and excursions over the coming summer months. The silverware included in the set belongs to the Buccellati 'Tahiti' collection, while the porcelain items are part of a range created with Ginori 1975. buccellati.com



Design Variations

You may be dubious if directed to visit a disused parking garage but, trust us, this venue by Mosca Partners on Viale Gorizia in the Darsena district will be one of the most talked about. Pass through the painted panels by Nathalie du Pasquier and you will find a landscape of hemp bricks by Park Associati, populated with installations by, to name just a few, new British brand Tamart (see p93), timber expert Wook, and Debonademeo, whose 'Adrenalina' furniture collection is a tribute to painter Remo Brindisi. moscapartners.it



Mater

In keeping with the design world's move towards biomaterials, Danish sustainable-technology company Mater is showcasing 'Alder', a new collection by Spanish architect and designer Patricia Urquiola, at its pop-up space on Via Bartolomeo Eustachi. The range is made from a new blend of 'Matek', a material developed by the brand that combines natural wood fibres or coffee waste with a biodegradable plastic. The raw material is then pressed into a pre-existing mould and fused with the recycled steel frame for added strength and durability. materdesign.com



Three of the best New design stores in the city

Milan is undergoing a facelift, with decorating and furniture brands opening new flagships



Primed to open on April 15, the American fabric and wallpaper house F Schumacher & Co will welcome customers to its first showroom on Via Fiori Chiari, a quaint street in Brera, which hosts a market once a month. Be the first to discover the opulent 'Schumacher Masterpieces' collection (pictured). fschumacher.eu



Spread over two levels (the lower for consultations and the upper for products), bathroom company Dornbracht's new showroom will occupy another enviable location in the centre of Brera. Set to open on April 16, the vast space will kick off with a focus on this year's shower novelties. dornbracht.com



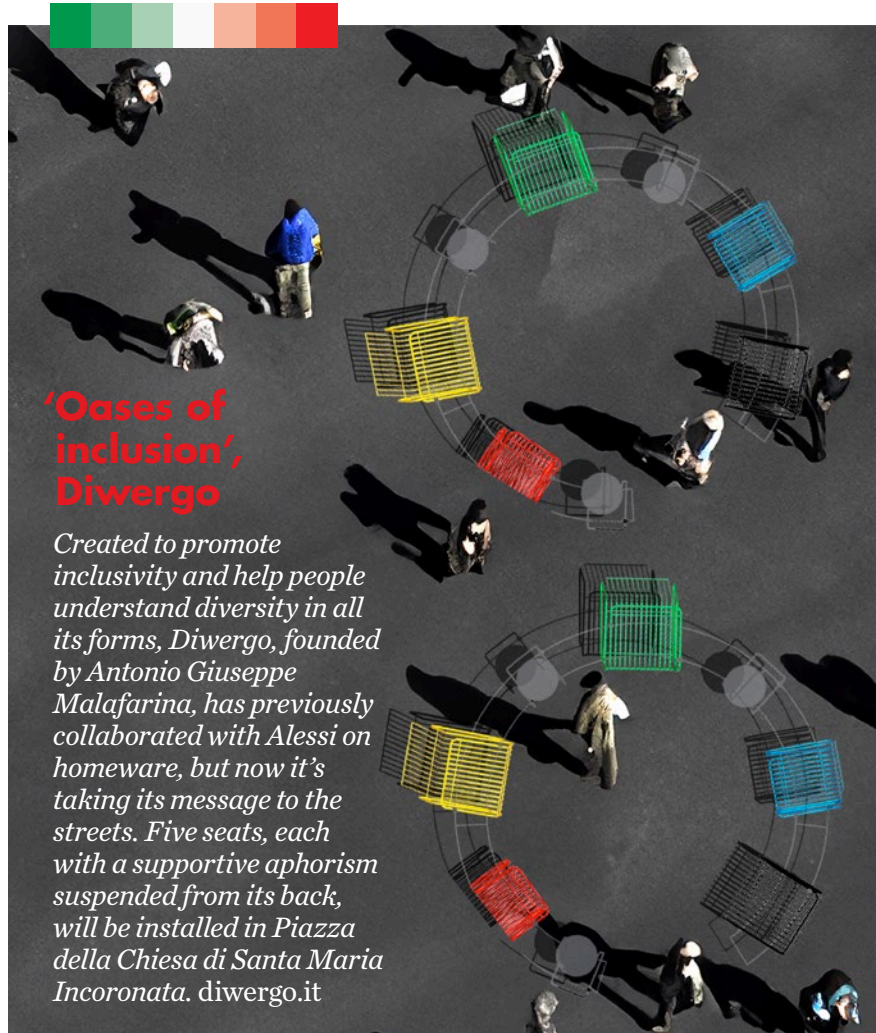
Grab a seat on Calligaris's new 'Mara' chair, which will be on display at the freshly designed, 200-square-metre Via Turati 7 store. Devised by multidisciplinary design studio Lualdi/Meraldi, the showroom is an homage to the brand – minimalist in style with modern flourishes. calligaris.com

PICTURES: ALESSANDRO SALETTA; DSI STUDIO; DOROTHEE DAHER; KAI IEHMANN; LUKAS MARSTALER; OLIVER SEIM; BOUALAM; YEJIZ SECEBIL; GUGLIEMO G. C. PROIETTI; PIETRO GIORGIO SORGETTI



Alcova

This should be your first port of call if you want to feel the pulse of 2024, as Alcova is essentially a microcosm of Milan design week. Now in its seventh year, the contemporary design destination founded in 2018 by Valentina Ciuffi and Joseph Grima (our City Life correspondent in this issue on p70), attracts tens of thousands of visitors and exhibitors each year. For 2024, the platform will take place in two historic villas within walking distance of each other: the modernist masterpiece Villa Borsani (left) by Osvaldo Borsani and the 19th-century Villa Bagatti Valsecchi, which was a former home to a noble Milanese family. A 15-minute train ride from the city's centre, it's a little outside of the normal design week stomping grounds, but it's worth making the trip to discover works by Objects of Common Interest x Bitossi, Gohar World and Faina. alcova.xyz ▶



'Oases of inclusion', Diwergo

Created to promote inclusivity and help people understand diversity in all its forms, Diwergo, founded by Antonio Giuseppe Malafarina, has previously collaborated with Alessi on homeware, but now it's taking its message to the streets. Five seats, each with a supportive aphorism suspended from its back, will be installed in Piazza della Chiesa di Santa Maria Incoronata. diwergo.it

**Three of the best
Luxury-fashion collaborations**

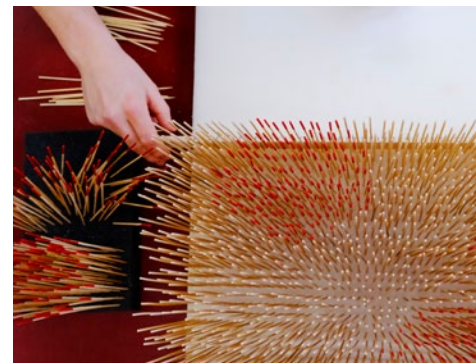
The lines between design and fashion blur as clothing brands remain big news



For the first time, American fashion designer Thom Browne will take part in Milan design week, debuting a collection of bathrobes and linens made in collaboration with Frette inside the hall of Palazzina Appiani. In a demonstration more akin to a catwalk show than a design fair, the showcase will see models dressed in the designs interact with each other around a series of mid-century cots. thombrowne.com



French brand Hermès has become a darling of Milan design week, with festival-goers queuing to see its monumental installations inside the expansive La Pelota. This year will be no different: the company is set to launch yet another wild and captivating space, which will feature new items from its homeware arm including this smart 'Voltige' table lamp (left). hermes.com



Attempting to break the boundaries between art, design and craftsmanship, Dutch collective We Make Carpets will take over Issey Miyake's Milan store to present 'Fold and Crease', a series of installations inspired by the design and making of Issey Miyake's clothing and the brand's famed pleats. eu-store.isseymiyake.com



Isola

Isola, the festival within a festival, swings back into action for its eighth edition at Milan design week. If you're on the hunt for emerging designers or have an eye for sustainability, this is the place (or places) to be. Spread across 40 locations throughout the city, Isola will see more than 320 international designers, design studios, creators and manufacturers interrogate the provocative theme: 'This Future is Currently Unavailable', through a series of exhibitions, installations, workshops, live demonstrations and design talks. isola.design

'Red Takeover & Silver Dome', Diesel Living for Moroso

Stop by this arresting pop-up installation, by Diesel Living and Moroso at Brera Site, to see the two brands' 'Puff-D' chair (pictured). The design is nostalgic and contemporary, with its inflated shape and created upholstery. Clad in the brand's signature red hue, the soft seat embodies Diesel's youthful spirit. moroso.it



'Narrazione Intrecciate', Visionnaire

Stepping into the annual 'Wunderkammer', a curious blend of art and design presented within the Visionnaire Design Gallery, is a treat for the imagination and the senses. This year, the space has been curated by Draga & Aurel, the Italian studio founded by Draga Obradovic and Aurel K Basedow, that has also created a version of its 'Lego' design (pictured) for the 'Nomad' collection. The table combines marble with patinated metal that's been corroded by sand. visionnaire-home.com



'The Clearing', Hannes Peer Architecture

A manifesto for architectural exploration and research, this installation located in Peer's Milan studio on Via Privata Rezia is a collaboration with the stone experts at Belgian brand Van Den Weghe. Featuring totemic sculptures honed from travertine, it shows the possibilities of this natural material, taking inspiration from fellow architect Peter Eisenman's 'House IV' concept from 1975, where a simple cube is cut, extended and rotated to show the genesis of a home. hannespeer.com; vandenweghe.be



'Re/Creation', Lasvit

The design world's love affair with glass is set to continue, so a trip to Palazzo Isimbardi, where historic glass brand Lasvit will be presenting its latest collections, is a must. Look out for 'Nebula', a new lighting range by Claesson Koivisto Rune, and marvel at the company's technical prowess with this delicate material as you wander through 'Porta' (pictured), an installation by art director Maxim Velčovský, situated in the central courtyard. lasvit.com

PICTURES: LOUIS DE ROFFIGNAC @HERMÈS, 2024. CAFFÈINE, SHIMI