

POSTCARDS FROM

MILAN

WHEN THE ITALIANS SPEAK, THE DESIGN CROWD LISTENS – ESPECIALLY AT PRESTIGIOUS TRADE FAIR SALONE INTERNAZIONALE DEL MOBILE. **VANESSA KEYS** ROUNDS UP OUR TOP FINDS FROM THE MILAN FURNITURE FAIR



SEEING STRIPES

IT'S HARD TO SAY WHETHER THE LATE DANISH DESIGNER HANS J. WEGNER WOULD APPROVE OF HIS ICONIC WISHBONE CHAIR BEING GIVEN THE ROYAL PAUL SMITH TREATMENT – BUT WE'RE FANS OF THIS MODERN MAKEOVER. THIS LIMITED-EDITION COLLECTION ALSO INCLUDES WEGNER'S FAMED SHELL AND WING CHAIRS, BOTH DAPPERLY DRESSED IN SMITH'S STRIPES. THE COLLABORATION IS SMITH'S WAY OF PAYING HOMAGE TO WEGNER, WHO WOULD HAVE TURNED 100 THIS YEAR. "HANS J. WEGNER IS ONE OF MY FAVOURITE DESIGNERS OF ALL TIME; HE IS A REAL DESIGNER'S DESIGNER," SAYS SMITH. PAULSMITH.CO.UK

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HEART OF GLASS

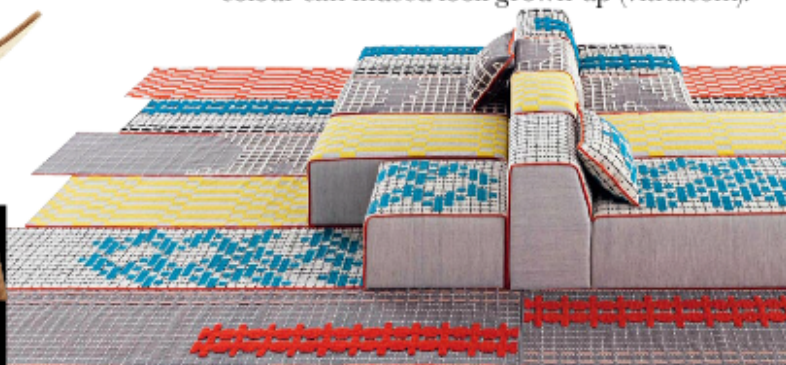
Flying the flag for Australian design in Milan were Sydney designers Liane Rossler and Sarah King, known professionally as the Supercyclers.

We were particularly taken with their Superblown series, a collection of exquisite glassware crafted from discarded bottles Rossler herself collected on the beach. supercyclers.com



4 Trend alert: patchwork prints

Isabel Marant may have re-ignited the patchwork craze, but these furniture designers are taking embroidery-tango to new heights. Spanish design queen Patricia Urquiola elevates lounging to a whole new level with her folk-inspired Bandas collection (below) for Gan (gan-rugs.com). Designed by Rosita herself, Missoni's Patch di Fiammati collection boasts lushly layered silk jacquards, watercolour tapestries and quilted fabrics (missonihome.it). Originally designed to grace the lounge of the UN building in NYC, Hella Jongerius' East River chairs for Vitra prove clashing colour can indeed look grown-up (vitra.com).



ALL THAT GLITTERS

THE INTERIORS EQUIVALENT OF A DAYTIME SEQUIN, METALLICS BRING A LITTLE BIT OF LUSTRE TO ANY ROOM. THAT'S WHY WE WERE THRILLED TO DISCOVER THAT KARTELL IS RELEASING ITS ICONIC COMPONIBILI STORAGE MODULES IN NOT ONLY COPPERY GOLD BUT A GLOSSY SILVER, TOO. TALK ABOUT THE PERFECT FINISHING TOUCH IN A SLEEK MONOCHROME BEDROOM. SPACEFURNITURE.COM.AU



METALLICS BRING A LITTLE BIT OF LUSTRE TO ANY ROOM



DESIGNER TO WATCH: OLGA BIELAWSKA

German-based Olga Bielawska doesn't design simply for the sake of designing. The purpose of her pieces is to continue telling a story she started – and for the piece to collect new stories of its own. We love the way she combines handmade craftsmanship with an industrial style reminiscent of Tom Dixon, as seen in her White Light (above). We see big things in her future. bielawska.de



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TREND ALERT: GENTLEMAN'S CLUB

Milan proved masculine design is no longer about overstated luxury but rather industrial textures and harsh lines.

Brit design king Tom Dixon puts a futuristic spin on the traditional gentleman's club with his Club collection, featuring metal-plated pendant lights (above). tomdixon.net

Diesel has long defined designer denim – and it's fast becoming one of the trendiest players in the decoration arena, too. We have our eye on Diesel's Nizza chair – an updated version of classic French outdoor bistro seating (above left). moroso.it

WE LOVE MODULAR LIVING

If storage solutions make you giddy, you may want to get out your measuring tape. Nordic design crew Muuto has released a mini version of its Stacked Shelf System, perfect for all those frustrating bits and pieces that coalesce in hallways and in third drawers down. Randomly stack or create a grid of efficient storage. spacefurniture.com



JACK OF ALL TRADES

Philippe Starck's Louis Ghost chair made serious design waves when it first debuted in Milan in 2002, but judging from the buzz surrounding his new Uncle Jack sofa, Louis may soon be knocked off his throne. A plastic fantastic feat of polycarbonate engineering, Jack weighs in at just 30kg – a world-first for this kind of technology. spacefurniture.com

TAP TO FOLLOW @VANESSAEKEYS



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