

Top 25 Thinking out of the box

INTERIORS / GLOBAL

For many of the industry’s brands, Milan Design Week is when all of their work comes to fruition. This is the time when their new wares – built on collaboration, creativity and studio expertise – are revealed for the first time. And Monocle has had a sneak peek. Here is the best of the box-fresh furniture, lighting and appliances that you’ll see this week. Ready to place an order?

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1. Tugendhat Lounge Chair by Knoll, USA German-American architect Ludwig Mies van der Rohe once mentored Florence Knoll as a student and his less-is-more approach is apparent in this revived modern piece. Knoll’s tubular technique creates a curved base and a slouched silhouette. *knoll.com* **2. Andromeda round table by Unifor, Italy** This elliptical coffee table has an other-worldly feel due to its mirrored exterior and intersecting base structure. The customisable table top can be rendered in different materials, including Italian walnut wood, concrete and leather. *unifor.it* **3. Parka sofa by Poltrona Frau** With a love for vintage fashion and enveloping lines, Como-based design atelier Draga & Aurel paid homage to the iconic Parka coat through the modular seating system designed for Poltrona Frau. Like its namesake, this sofa is hard-wearing, versatile and adaptable to different interiors. *poltronafrau.com* **4. Lauren chair by Flexform, Italy** Flexform’s collapsable chair has a lightweight structure with svelte lines and fine finishes. The design by architect Antonio Citterio pays tribute to the precise art of cabinet making. It is lined with luxurious cowhide leather. *flexform.it* **5. Oblò pendant lights by Lodes, Italy** The Venice-based lighting company is partnering with Italian designer Paola Navone on a nautical-themed collection. The Oblò pendant lights feature porthole-like glass diffusers and hidden LED light sources, held by knotted cables. The end result is a minimal light source reminiscent of floating buoys. *lodes.com* **6. Lunaa stool by Allina, Italy** Inspired by ancient tools and a glossy, modern-day culture, designer

Alessandra Pelizzari Corbellini set off to design Lunaa, a furniture collection that provides a blank canvas for artistic expression. The sleek stool encompasses the philosophy of the new furniture collection that is not only functional but reminiscent of contemporary art. *lunaacollections.com* **7. IC 10 lamp by Flos, Italy** The Flos spherical lamps balanced on brass stems by London-based Michael Anastassiades’ have become a design classic for their ethereal and contemporary design. At Salone del Mobile, maxi-sized versions and gold-finished special editions are joining the 14 variations and colours that the model currently comes in. *flos.com* **8. Helium light by Bonacina, Italy** German designer Mark Braun’s geometric Helium lamp for Bonacina is imbued with a lightness and versatility to illuminate a romantic dinner or convivial gathering. It is a playful addition to Bonacina’s collection. *bonacina1889.it* **9. Genkan collection by Zanat, Bosnia and Herzegovina** For Bosnian furniture producer Zanat, Japanese designer Naoto Fukasawa has created the Genkan collection. Paying homage to the ritual of departing and returning home, the Genkan console symbolises a person with open, welcoming arms. *zanat.org* **10. Lokum tables by Acerbis, Italy** Dutch artist and designer Sabine Marcellis combined matter, light and colour to create Acerbis’s Lokum coffee table series. Available in rectangular and square versions, and in three different colours, the tables can combine to create various configurations. *acerbisdesign.com* **11. Nu taps by Roca, Spain** This collection of taps, designed by Valencian studio Inma Bermúdez for Spain’s Roca,



includes three different handles – pin, dome and striped – attached to the thinnest possible body and plumbing connections to cut down on unnecessary material usage. Available in six colours, the iterations inject a sense of joy into any bathroom. *roca.com* **12. Pop-up armchair by Unform Studio, USA** Unform Studio’s eye-catching Pop Up collection draws on a single shape repeated multiple times to form unique pieces. See this armchair of large white cylinders, connected through an expandable-metal-frame system at Salone Satellite. *unformstudio.com* **13. Isle light by Lambert & Fils, Canada** Montréal-based lighting studio invited Canadian designer Zoë Mowat to create this Isle light featuring a glass tube balancing on surrealistic blocks of stone and aluminium. The lighting system comes in different sizes, with the possibility of various clustered decorative squares. *lambertetfils.com* **14. Alder side table by Mater, Denmark** This nifty table by prolific Spanish architect and designer Patricia Urquiola is made from Matek – an eco-friendly material pioneered by Danish brand Mater. We have our eye on the terracotta colourway for warmer months ahead. *materdesign.com* **15. Savoy coffee table by Alias, Italy** French designer Patrick Norguet has developed a collection of coffee tables that are a testament to Italian manufacturer Alias’s crafting nous. Varying in shapes and sizes, they feature lacquered steel details that contrast with its natural wood composition. *alias.design* **16. Snohetta modular sofa by MDF Italia, Italy** Norwegian architecture firm Snohetta and MDF Italia have created a modular sofa system that allows units to move around with ease to fit any space restrictions.

Made from recycled polyester, it promises ergonomic comfort for domestic use. *mdfitalia.com* **17. Citterio C tap by Axor, Germany** The slender Axor Citterio C tap offers a minimalist interpretation of modern sanitaryware. This collaboration with Italian architect Antonio Citterio creates a product marrying high-quality German plumbing with tasteful Italian design. *axor-design.com* **18. Ceramic washbasin by Vitra, Turkey** As part of its Outline collection, Turkish bathroom brand Vitra (separate from the Swiss Vitra) released a recycled ceramic washbasin, made exclusively from discarded or broken materials combined with wastewater from the company’s production centre. *vitrageglobal.com* **19. Shoto table by Maruni, Japan** Hiroshima-based wooden furniture manufacturer Maruni has launched a new collection in collaboration with Danish designer Cecilie Manz. This low, wooden table creates a generous tray-like surface. Shoto refers to the Japanese word for archipelago, a nod to the furniture we instinctively group together within our living spaces. *maruni.com* **20. Children’s Wishbone chair by Carl Hansen & Son, Denmark** The Scandinavian manufacturer has downscaled the 1949 Wishbone chair by Danish designer Hans J Wegner for children aged three and upwards, while keeping the original’s fourteen components of oak wood and handwoven paper-cord seating. *carlhansen.com* **21. Boboli armchair by Molteni&C, Italy** Designed by Belgian architect Vincent van Duysen, the Boboli armchair is characterised by airy lines crafted to function in outdoor environments. Featuring a teak wood frame, the backrest flaunts an attractive weave of fibre strands allowing light to filter through with Mediterranean elegance. *molteni.it* **22. Venus console by Armani Casa, Italy** Armani Casa has been showcasing the best of Italian home style, inspired by its namesake fashion company, since 2000. This console displays the brand’s love for precious materials, from the gold leaf of the curved, glass top to the satin-gold coloured base. *armani.com* **23. Edy armchair by Delcourt Collection, France** French designer Christophe Delcourt showcases his love of nature and storied expertise with this armchair, made from textiles and brushed oak, with echoes of equine lines. *christophedelcourt.com* **24. Fean planter by Orior, US** New York and Ireland-based design studio Orior is making its Milan Design Week debut with these sculptural marble planters. Inspired by Celtic stone configurations and waystones, the planters come in medium, tall and large sizes and three limestones sourced from different Irish cities. *oriorfurniture.com* **25. New Wave washbasin by Kast, UK** British design house Kast is embracing soft curves with Wave, its new line of washbasins. With individuality and playfulness, the UK brand is eschewing harsh lines in favour of whimsical silhouettes and pastel hues. *kastconcretebasins.com*