

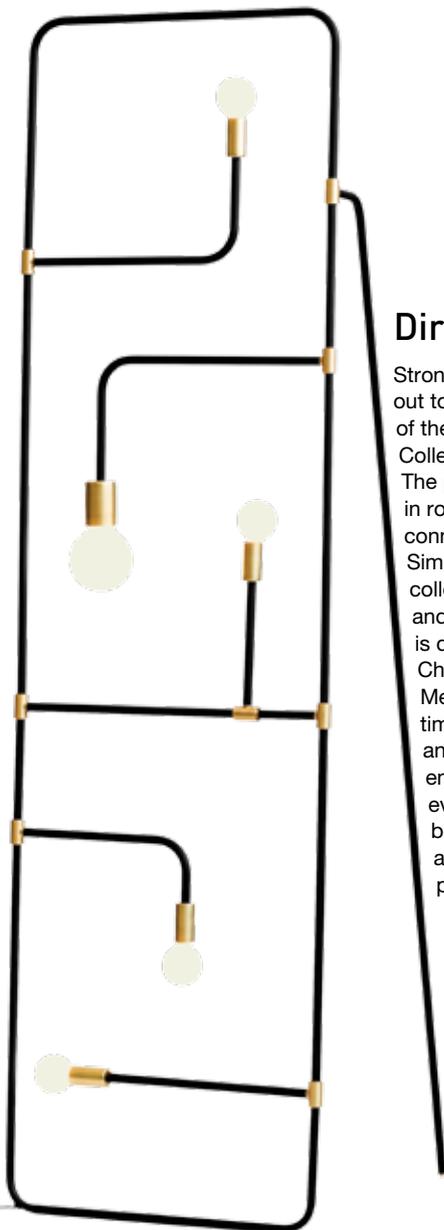
Design in Context

TRENDS presents a selection of products where design blurs the lines between art and functionality

Dining ambience

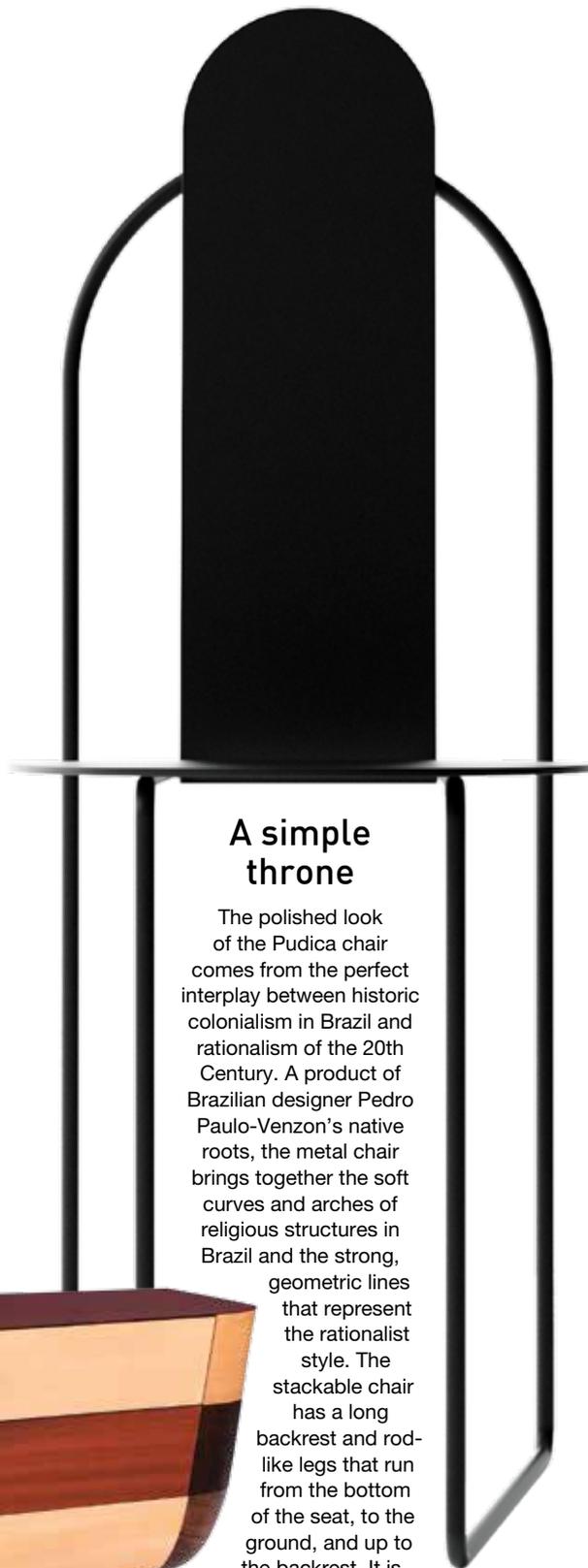
The Accum dining set by Bitangra includes a customisable dining table and chairs that combine the qualities of Bitangra's handmade manufacturing and sophisticated style. Put together, this set creates a relaxed yet contemporary atmosphere in a dining room. The table, made of lacquered wood, is designed for six people, but can be customised in colour and size. The retro-inspired accent chairs are made of lacquered fibreglass, with the seat and back upholstered in velvet. The chairs can also be used individually in living rooms, restaurants and hotel lobbies.





Direct lighting

Strong black lines bend in and out to create the unique shapes of the lamps in the Beaubien Collection by Lambert & Fils. The powder-coated rods end in round and cubic brass connectors with bright bulbs. Simple yet ornamental, the collection has an industrial and graphic aesthetic that is derived from traditional Chinese screens and the Memphis movement. The timeless design is sleek and delicate, but gives out enough light to illuminate even large spaces. It can be hung from the ceiling, attached to the wall or even placed on the ground.



A simple throne

The polished look of the Pudica chair comes from the perfect interplay between historic colonialism in Brazil and rationalism of the 20th Century. A product of Brazilian designer Pedro Paulo-Venzon's native roots, the metal chair brings together the soft curves and arches of religious structures in Brazil and the strong, geometric lines that represent the rationalist style. The stackable chair has a long backrest and rod-like legs that run from the bottom of the seat, to the ground, and up to the backrest. It is available in carbon steel and brass versions.



Veneer wonder

Evidently, the Timber chest of drawers designed by Craman Lagarde for Fort Royal is made of multiple veneers like palissander, walnut, pear tree, moabi, lime tree, anegra, avodire and beech. French luxury craftsmanship lies at the core of the design, which combines innovation with tradition. With faintly rounded edges, the console has a checkered pattern, a lacquered top and robust wooden legs.



From the depths of the sea

They perfectly resemble sea anemones, and they're named so too. But these side tables by Pia Maria Raeder are functional sculptures made of beech rods that have been sanded, cut, arranged and lacquered. The handmade tables form part of a larger installation that evokes biomorphic forms through its organic design. Since natural beech rods are straight, Raeder decided to add movement by combining them at different heights to create a wave of shadowy reflections. Each unique piece can be customised to suit different colour preferences.

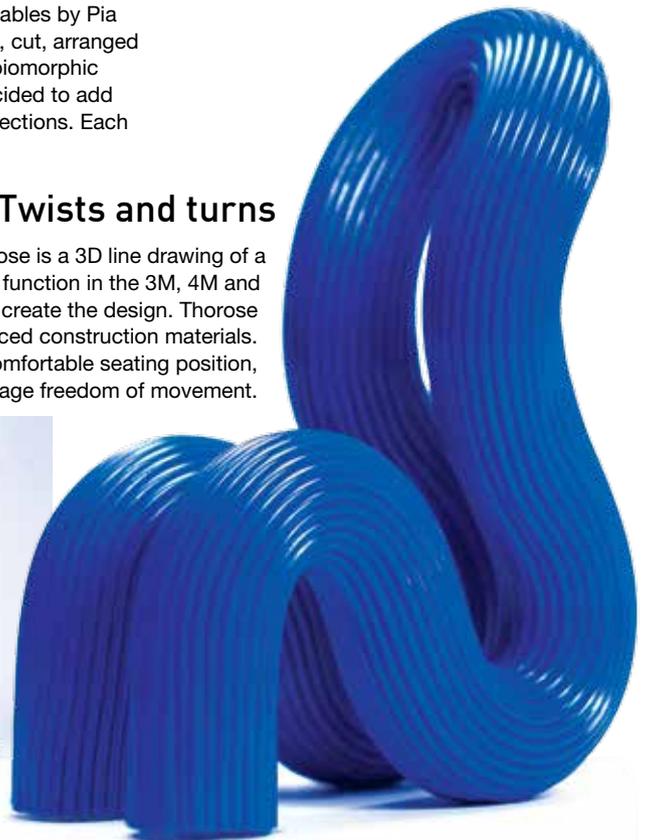
Bold statement

The Awaiting project is a collaboration between designer Giorgia Zanellato and artist Coralla Maiuri. Maiuri's pieces of bold coloured velvet coupled with Zanellato's refined design prowess resulted in a series of benches, stools, room dividers, vanity tables and mirrors designed for Secondomie. The products have a strong metal frame in golden brass and smooth velvet in abstract patterns.



Twists and turns

Each of the chairs in the Tubular Group 01 by Ara Levon Thorose is a 3D line drawing of a chair created with different movements. Artistic abstraction meets function in the 3M, 4M and 7M chairs, where the numbers define the curving movements that create the design. Thorose explores post-industrial forms using vivid colours and mass-produced construction materials. All three chairs, with their functional curves, allow for the most comfortable seating position, and encourage freedom of movement.



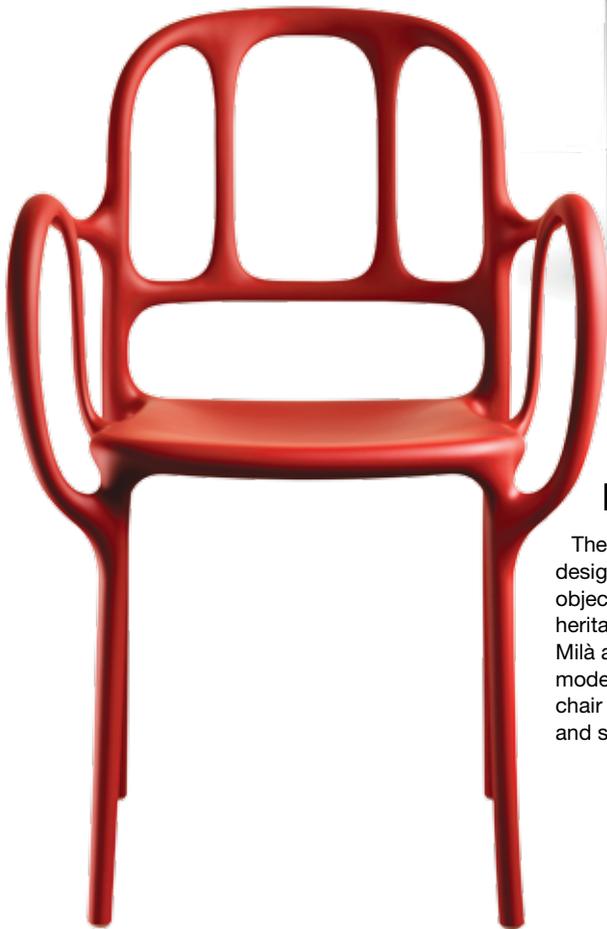


A dose of Dadaism

Each one of Maison Dada's products, whether it's the vanity mirror, writing desk, coffee table, rocking chair, drawer chest, rugs, lamps or candle holders, feature bold colours that lean towards pop art. Inspired by global art and design, each of these products has been designed after detailed research into functionality and aesthetics. The artistic collection is Maison Dada's first, and is a reflection of the unrestrained imagination and desire of the founder, Thomas Dariel to create animated furniture products.

A seat for all seasons

The innovative Botolo chair may look like a miniature version of an armchair, but it makes up in comfort. Designed by Cini Boeri for Arflex Milan, the chair has three tubular legs that hold its metal and wood structure. Described as a product that's designed for sitting, relaxing, thinking and being creative, Botolo is available in fabric, leather or fur, with legs painted in several colours. Produced in Italy, the chair has a contemporary look that serves as a valuable addition to any seating area.



Pretty in plastic

The Milà chair is Jaime Hayón's first product in plastic. The Spanish artist-designer often merges art, decoration and design to create intricately designed objects that fit firmly in contemporary design culture. However, the restrictions of heritage materials like wood, metal and ceramic offered him the freedom to design Milà as an expressive chair based on the elastic and dynamic features of Catalan modernism. Designed with the gas-injection moulding expertise of Magis, this chair has a silky touch and can be easily stacked. Each chair is available with back and seat cushions in multiple colours.

Sleek by design

The Interstellar Dining Table by Resident Studio may be only 5mm thick, but it definitely stands out in a crowd. The statement piece has a thin table-top, which, owing to its slender design, appears to float in mid air. The table-top can be extended up to five metres in length without the need for any beams or structural support. The carbon fibre structure is anchored by black powder-coated or brushed stainless steel legs.



Seating companion

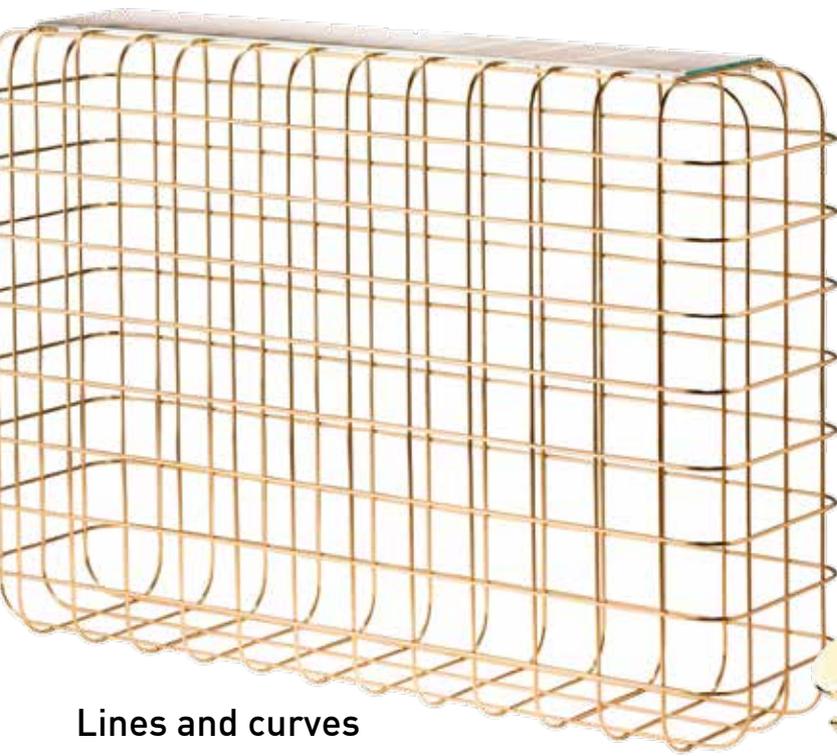
The Teddy Bear armchair by Pierre Yovanovitch is named rightly so. The cotton-upholstered chair with varnished oak feet is shaped like a seated bear. It is designed to curve around the user, providing adequate back support. The comfortable model has a small and large version, both of which have a fluffy bear-like silhouette. Designed in Paris, the armchair evokes softness and a natural elegance, rounded up by a voluptuous sense of comfort.



Celebrating a legacy

For the last 50 years, Kettal has been focused on creating functional and durable outdoor furniture with a certain level of aesthetics. Recently, Kettal Studio collaborated with designers like Jasper Morrison, Patricia Urquiola, Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec, Doshi Levien, Hella Jongerius, and Rodolfo Dordoni to create contemporary products that have all been featured in its 2017 Outdoor Furniture Catalogue. The Cala high-backed armchair by Doshi Levien and the Riva collection by Jasper Morrison are part of this collaboration. While the former has a light, transparent surface that maintains a connection with natural elements, the latter has a plank-like construction of the seat and the back to provide optimum comfort to enjoy the outdoors.





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Blossom and bloom

On display at the Objets Nomades exhibition at Design Miami 2016, we spotted the Blossom Stool, designed by Japanese designer Tokujin Yoshioka in collaboration with Louis Vuitton. Offered in gold metal and leather, the stool is made up of overlapping flower petals to create a timeless design that evokes the brand essence of Louis Vuitton. The four components run along the length of the stool, winding down towards the base and playing out towards the top. The delicate structure is designed as a sculptural object that represents the premium luxury aesthetic and level of craftsmanship of the brand.



Lines and curves

While designing products for Pouenat, Jean Louis Deniot's aim was to incorporate fundamental geometry in their form, and exclude superfluous decor from their aesthetic. The result is a bunch of artisanal metal works that are based on strict geometry, but tend to flow into contemporary spaces with fluidity. The Cottos Console is a rectangular web of thin metal wires that criss-cross into transparent squares. All four rounded edges of the table ensure that the table doesn't look too boxy, and a top sheet creates a base for placement of other decor elements.



Luxury in delicacy

Memoir's new collection of products, designed by Portuguese interior designer Mafalda Soares, is made of distinctly noble materials like golden leaf, marble, metal and different types of wood. The tasteful, sophisticated pieces are designed to bring a sense of luxury and timelessness to spaces, whether contemporary or traditional. The handcrafted pieces include the Secret Cabinet, the Lust chaise-longue, the Vanity Mirror and the Ostentation Folding Screen. Intended to be functional elements that also serve as decoration, these items uphold the elegant essence of Memoir.

Elegant proportions

The Freeman Seating System by Rodolfo Dordoni Design features smooth, enveloping lines and sophisticated construction details. The design is steeped in tradition but perfected with modernism to create comfortable compositions that take centre stage in any living space. The Duvet and Tailor have a polyurethane foam structure with an aluminium frame and fittings. The sofas are raised off the floor on refined metal feet and finished off with a glossy bronze finish. They are designed in a way to suit movements during both day and night time.

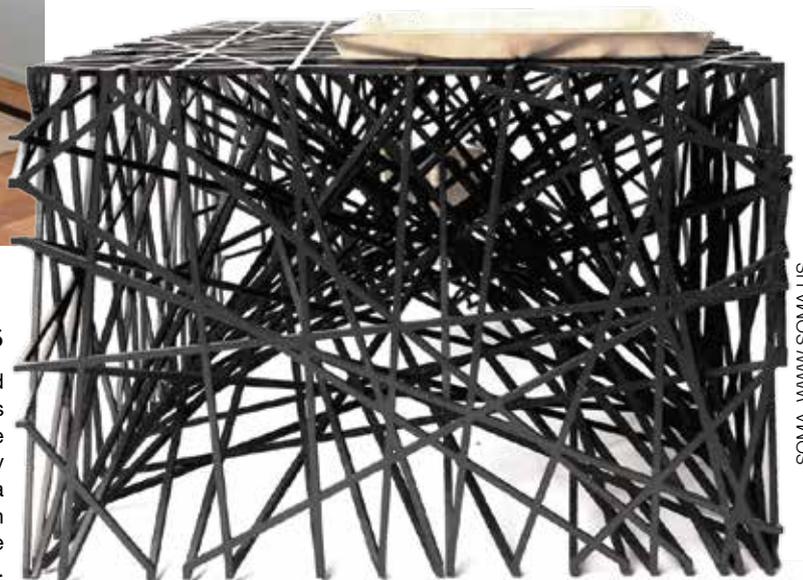


Solid foundation

The Plinto table collection offers interior design freedom; the freedom to choose from endless combinations of finishes, forms and sizes for the most ideal table for the user. The series of dining tables designed by Andrea Parisio for Meridiani is characterised by pure lines and a distinct architectural design. The products are defined by a play of solids and voids, with just the right combination of light structured metal bases in black or bronzed brass finishes and matching solid volumes in marble, wood or lacquered finishes.

Criss-cross

At House of Today's third design exhibition, Michel Abboud and Steven Townsend of SOMA presented their Layered Fabrics table. As per the theme of exhibition, the product represents the concept of historical cities and their development through history and time. SOMA chose the city of Beirut, which has undergone a drastic evolution with different societies leaving their imprint on the city. These layers are overlaid to create the form of the table as one single unit that binds the city together.



SOMA, WWW.SOMA.US

By Tina Thakrar