

THE VERY BEST OF SALONE DEL MOBILE 2018

As with every April, Salone del Mobile was held in Milan this year, from April 17-22. The Salone, founded in 1961 as a vehicle for promoting Italian furniture and furnishings exports, is one of the most keenly awaited events in the world of furniture. This year's edition showcased top international and Italian designers, architects and studios. With 'renewed dynamism and optimism', the event paved the path for futuristic designs.

Keeping Milan at the centre of the process of renewal, this year's trade fair spearheaded a new approach and strengthened the process of globalisation. Galleries, design firms and studios and independent designers held thousands of openings, which were spread throughout the city.

Here are our top picks from the the 57th edition of the event:

RAW-EDGES

Horah - Light Installation by Yael Mer and Shay Alkalay

Raw-Edges, the London-based studio, decided to continue the legacy at Milan's Spazio Krizia and focus on light installation for this space. The space came alive with over 30 dancing lights, assembled from curved 'leaves' in casted glass. The pivoting movement of the 'leaves' created a repetitive yet transforming piece of glittering installation. Inspired from the traditional Israeli dance form called Horah, the dancing lights create synchronised, rhythmic shapes. Yael and Shay, both originally from Israel, created these lights specially for the exhibition. However, the designers hope to create a production version soon.



PANTER & TOURRON HOLY

Lausanne-based design studio Panter & Tourron created spiritual objects that connect ancient religious symbols with cutting-edge technology for Milan. Launched at Spazio Rossana Orlandi, each of the five products represents various spiritual phases: the act of joining in (becoming a believer), the purification ritual, the offerings to the gods and communication with them and the afterlife. Each device is a reflection of the designers' fascination with a communion of technology with the pre-digital world. The products included an amulet, a votive altar and an incense burner.



EREZ NEVI PANA

Vegan Design – Or the Art of Reduction

This unique exhibition by Israeli designer Erez Nevi Pana was presented at Spazio Sanremo. His creations were a response to an important question: is it possible to conceive design without using any kind of material derived from animals? A vegan himself, he proved that with the right approach, it is an achievable task. Smart ideas and research helped Erez Nevi steer clear of using any product that contained animal molecules. His experiments breathe life into functional objects that are life-friendly, elegant and beautiful. He uses plant substances and minerals to assemble his pieces.

PETER PICHLER ARCHITECTURE

Future Space

The Milan-based architecture and design firm created a temporary pavilion, weighing 12 tonnes, with more than 1,600 wooden beams. Symmetry, geometry and proportion, the three fundamental elements of the Renaissance, have been the inspiration behind the design. The pavilion is made of three curving walls arranged together to form a pyramid-like structure. The project explores the potential of wood in a non-typical "building" environment to transmit a spatial experience.





KODAI IWAMOTO

Plastic Blowing

Tokyo-based designer Kodai Iwamoto had always been curious to understand what would happen if an old manufacturing process meets cheap and mass-produced material. The Plastic Blowing project was result of his question. Plastic pipes were transformed into pieces of art by applying air pressure and heat. The designer believes the hand-making process gives the pipe, otherwise an ordinary mass-produced object, a new life and value.

MARTEN BAAS

BHSD Collection

This collection of glass monsters was Dutch designer Marten Baas' response to Czech glass manufacturer Lasvit's 'think monstrous' brief. The 'monster' collection, which took nearly two years to be transformed into glass, won the Milano Design Award for best installation. The creations are inspired from the recent fossils of monster beasts found between layers of clay and sand in The Netherlands. No wonder the colourful, glass monsters are named like scientific discoveries: BHSD-001, BHSD-002 and BHSD-003.



SANWA COMPANY

The Impact of Compact

Japanese brand Sanwa presented its new collection of 'compact' kitchens with cutting-edge technology. The new range combines sophisticated, contemporary and minimalist design, typical of the Japanese tradition. This line of extremely compact kitchens are capable to create wonder even in a small living space.