

SPOTTED at Milan

A quick look at some of the pieces we liked at the recently concluded Milan Fair 2010. Watch this section for more next month.

WORDS DOROTHY KIKON



Modesty Bench & Black Cherry Lamp

Feminine and restrained with a twist of humour, Nika Zupanc's *Gone with the Wind* collection is inspired by "beauties robbed of fortune but filled with elegance". Remember Scarlett O'Hara? The simple lines of the *Modesty Bench* portray modesty and self-reliance, while a black satin ribbon primps it up

proudly. Another interesting piece is the *Black Cherry Lamp*, a modular assembly of lamps that pays homage to "every single cherry in the world blessed with a shape that is simple and mysterious at the same time."

(nikazupanc.com)



Magic Hole Chair

Style and functionality meld together effortlessly in the *Magic Hole* armchair designed by Philippe Starck and Eugeni Quitllet for Kartell. An internal flared orange pocket carved out on each arm serves as a magazine holder as well as a decorative element, with the bright orange contrasting with the single-moulded black frame. Light, shock resistant and weather proof, it will easily be at home both indoors and outdoors.

(kartell.it)

Piezo Shower

The *Piezo Shower* scores on the grounds of looks and innovation, with a sculptural body and a self-heating system, powered by the pressure of running water. Conceptualised by four students who came together from different countries and design schools, the system is controlled with a waterproof touch-screen display, also powered by running water. The simple interface allows you to control the temperature and water pressure and keep a tab on the elapsed shower time and amount of water used. The prototype shown in Milan landed the 2nd prize at the Satellite Award 2010. (piezo-shower.blogspot.com)



Private Space Washstand

Seamlessly crafted out of a single piece of Hi-macs, this washstand by Jannis Ellenberger has everything you'll need from a vanity corner – a sink, two-level counter top, a towel rack, and holders for brushes. The washstand top sits on an ash wood frame and is part of a collection of Hi-macs furniture called *Private Space Furniture*. (ellenbergerdesign.de)



Foam Porcelain

A new entrant into the material world is foam porcelain, developed by Dutch designer Marjan van Aubel who produced a series of tableware and cabinets made from the material. Foam porcelain can be handled in the same way as china and is capable of producing lightweight objects. It literally rises in the kiln, expanding to about 300% of its original volume. Extremely light weight (only a third of the material is needed), its porous structure makes it quite strong. Marjan is currently developing the material with designer Joris Laarman. (marjanvanaubel.com)





Archimede's Scale

Only good can come from applying physics in the realm of design. The *Archimede's Scale* designed by Federica Castagno and Sara Petrucci is based on the principal of buoyancy. The graduated food bowl can be used as a scale when immersed in water; the depth of immersion indicates the weight of the content. Simple and smart, it would have made Archimede proud. (acquacaldadesign.it)



Cabana

No, it's not a primitive hut in a tribal village, but it sure has been inspired by one. Designed by Fernando & Humberto Campana for Edra, the *Cabana* storage unit is quite the attention grabber with dangling lengths of fire-proofed raffia concealing five shelves supported by a central column. Could be a fun piece to have, only if it doesn't remind you of the girl from *The Grudge*. (edra.it)



Light-Form

Fold this here and unfold that there and do it all over again. The options are endless with *Light-Form*, a modular lighting system made up of a variable number of identical modules that are interdependent and interlinked. The result is a dynamic interactive mosaic. By manipulating the folding tiles of each modular panel, users can indulge in a game of patterns, light and contrasts generated by dark natural wood and the purity of OLED light. The prototype of *Light-form* designed by Francesca Rogers and Daniele Gualeni Design Studio for ILIDE (Italian Light Design) has aroused considerable interest and the finished product will be available by December 2010. (ilide.it)



Swing Pendant Light

Swirly and girly, the *Swing* pendant light by Monochro Design Studio is charming with its ribbon strips in pastel shades. When not in use, it collapses easily for convenient storing. (monochro.jp)



Dressed Wood

Dutch designer Marly Gommans's *Dressed Wood* furniture collection underlines the thin line between fashion and furniture design. By enveloping ash wood frames with leather, she shows how details dress furniture in much the same way as clothes do the body. (galeriejudystraten.nl)



Hübler Table

The *Hübler table* is a creation that uses concrete in various planimetric surfaces and books of various dimensions to form different shapes and depths. The table designed by artist János Hübler and produced by Hungarian concrete furnishings manufacturer Ivanka is a tribute to eternal knowledge (set in concrete) and the degeneration of information, while also offering an opportunity to reflect on the essence of the book. (www.ivanka.hu)



Cosmic Landscape

All aglow with appreciation is the futuristic *Cosmic Landscape* lighting series designed by Ross Lovegrove for Artemide. The lights are made from a transparent methacrylate structure, with an injection-moulded opal methacrylate diffuser. The collection is best described in the designer's own words. 'The *Cosmic Landscape* appears to have emerged from a digital laval flow of light...out of a ceiling, out of a wall, out of a floor... releasing its complex shape as algorithmic air... liberated into free space it seems to cool into a complex three dimensional sponge of light... appearing dematerialised so its edges blur becoming dimmed and soft on the eyes, changing its colour, enjoying its nebula nature.' (artemide.com)

