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TRENDS

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AND MORE...

Tarik Currimbhoy *on making sculptural moves*



Products where design blurs the lines between art and functionality



INSPIRED BY INDIA

Interior designer and styling expert Aly Velji traced his Indian roots for the Modern India collection he designed in collaboration with furniture and accessories brand, Mobilia. A celebration of India's architectural heritage, the luxurious collection experiments with traditional Indian aesthetics to form a contemporary set of furniture pieces. Evidence of the country's expert craftsmanship lies in repurposing old architectural elements like beams, windows and doors, to create new, innovative building elements. This served as the starting point for Velji, who uses aspects like marble ornamentation and traditional weaving in these pieces.





PLAYING WITH ARCHETYPES

The La città è mobile! range by Matteo Pacella and Philippine Hamen comprises a collection of furniture pieces that resemble magnified wooden building blocks or miniature classical architecture. Using archetypal forms as their starting point, the two designers have used architectural elements like columns, steps, arches and bridges to create bright blue resin stools, tables, benches and bookshelves. As with architecture, the volumes rely on geometric shapes that exude a minimal expression. They almost seem like scaled down versions of ancient structures, with a strong functional aspect.

RACHEL E JOY STANLEY



TRIBUTE TO MILAN

Domenico Orefice's Man de Milan furniture collection celebrates the craftsmanship, skills and design heritage of the world's design capital, Milan. The designer uses traditional styles with modern techniques to create a range of contemporary products, including the Mulino bookshelf and Ringhiera cabinet. While the former is a wheel-like creation that uses locally sourced, reclaimed wood, the latter pays homage to local housing, with open balconies and iron railings. Orefice also experiments with other materials like clay and resin, manipulating them in interesting ways with the help of local artisans, artists and sculptors.



WORKING WAYS

Modular furniture is on the rise, corresponding to the growth of co-working spaces, open cubicles and lack of hierarchy. Bla Station's new BOB Job is a modular sofa system with shelves, tables, charging outlets, partitions for privacy and even plant holders. Designed by Thomas Bernstrand and Stefan Borselius, the sofa system has been designed to go through modifications and reconfigurations, increasing its long-term appeal. It's a new take on the traditional office desk, taking all of the users' needs into consideration.

