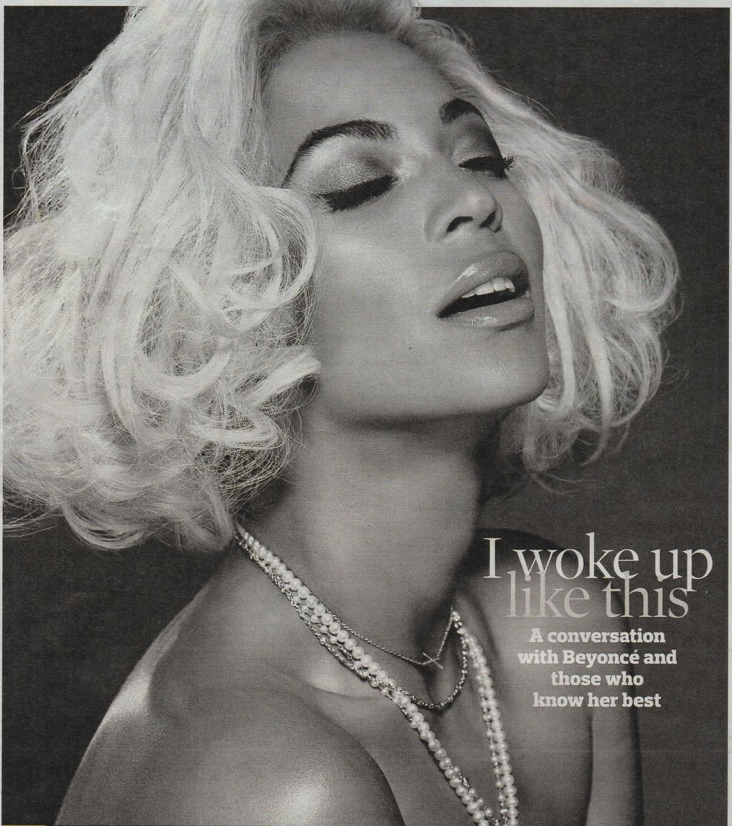


TheObserver

MAGAZINE

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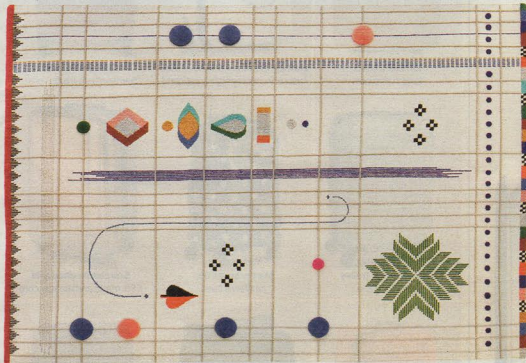
A conversation
with Beyoncé and
those who
know her best



Outlaw America Stage school of hard knocks Men's fashion Milan furniture fair

House work

This year's Milan furniture fair brings clever reworkings of classic designs, plus soft rounded shapes and sorbet colours. Becky Sunshine chooses her five favourite pieces from the show



This year at the Salone del Mobile in Milan – or furniture fair as we non-Italian speakers like to call it – the industry's big names seemed cautious about investing in the new. Instead, there were updates and variations to existing lines, such as the rainbow of shades (curated by Hella Jongerius) added to the classic Eames aluminium chair at Vitra. Colour mirrored this summer's fashion trends – soft 1950s hues appeared again and again – and metallic was also a theme.

It was a good year for the Brits. Architect David Adjaye showed his chair for Knoll in fresh colours and a copper finish. The award-winning duo Barber Osgerby (of Olympic torch and £2 coin fame) presented pieces at Knoll, Vitra and B&B Italia, while architect

Nigel Coates created modular sofas and armchairs for Fornasetti. Milan stalwart Tom Dixon took his new wares to the official fairground this year for the first time, and showed gold versions of his mirror-ball light, as well as a vast brass table, while Sarah Lucas presented MDF and breezeblock utilitarian-style furniture in a pop-up Sadie Coles gallery space.

The biggest smiles were to be had at the *Wallpaper** Handmade exhibition, which teams designers and manufacturers together for one-off collaborations. If the glow-in-the-dark wallpaper by LA designers The Haas Brothers and Flavor Paper didn't do it for you, there were always the blown glass (ahem) sex toys by Jeff Zimmerman and Michael Reynolds. ■

POLISHED PERFECTION Olympia Vanity Table by Nika Zupanc for Sé

In her first collection for Sé, Slovenian designer Nika Zupanc's "10 pieces" had a retro/modern-luxury sensibility. Soft sorbet shades and rounded shapes on sofas, tables and lights brought to mind a light femininity without being overly girly. "I wanted to blend elegance and sensitivity with a determined, almost masculine spirit," Zupanc explains.

From £6,830, se-london.com



WOVEN WORKS OF ART Rabari rugs by Doshi Levien

Hand-knotted and hand-woven from New Zealand wool. The rugs designed by husband-and-wife team Jonathan Levien and Nipa Doshi for Spanish carpet specialist Nanimarquina take weeks to make by the women of the nomadic Rabari tribal community in India. They feature colourful motifs and light-as-air metallics. nanimarquina.com





FANTASTIC PLASTIC

Jellies Family by Patricia Urquiola for Kartell

In their 65th birthday year super-brand Kartell reintroduced tableware. A favourite was the Jellies Family by Patricia Urquiola, which (for plastic) looked luxurious. The collection has that lovely indoor-outdoor quality to it and is available in amber, green, pink and light blue. "They look good all one colour or nicely mixed up," explains Urquiola. *kartell.com*



UNSTRUCTURED COMFORT

Mollo chair by Philippe Malouin for Established & Sons

Canadian Philippe Malouin's new Mollo chair looks simple and robust, but is made entirely from varying densities of foam. "We made a discovery while making a foam tube and curling it," says Malouin. "We made three small stitches on the model and it created the seat, while elevating the backrest and armrests, giving it its plump shape." *From £3,600, establishedandsons.com*

SKILL OF THE IRISH

Solid Patterns by Scholten & Baijings for J Hill's Standard

The new Waterford-based company J Hill's Standard is flying the flag for Ireland by preserving the craft of hand-cut crystal. For founder Anike Tyrrell, it has been a labour of love, four years in the making. "Our aim was to revive a dying industry. We only have two cutters left, both 65 years old, so now we're employing apprentices to keep this tradition alive." The first two collections are designed by Martino Gamper and by Scholten + Baijings. *From £100, jhillstandard.com*

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