

# To the next level – Part 2/2

*We asked 10 designers – Mist-O, NM3, Parasite 2.0, Federico Peri, Elena Salmistraro, Sara Ricciardi, Lauren Rottet, Valerio Sommella, Stefania Ruggiero and Studio Klass – what objects they would like to design and have not yet done*

**Cristina Kiran Piotti** | 9 April 2025

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In the world of contemporary design, the ability to explore new design territories has become an essential skill. Designers specializing in specific categories like chairs, lamps, or tables are finding great value today in broadening their scope and engaging with the design of previously unexplored objects. This openness to new challenges is not only an opportunity for personal growth but also responds to the needs of an increasingly fluid and interdisciplinary market. Looking closely, it's like facing a methodological revolution. A seating piece interacts with the body, its ergonomics, and structural resilience. A lamp dialogues with light, ambiance, even with the energy passing through it. This leap in scale and function forces a reevaluation of approach, exploring new materials, and perhaps studying new technologies. Achille Castiglioni, who often emphasized the importance of curiosity and an experimental approach in design ("If you lack curiosity, it's best to skip it."), embodies a spirit of exploration that gave birth to vastly different objects, from the Arco lamp to the Mezzadro. To experiment means accepting uncertainty and risk, surely, but it is in this space of adrenaline-charged freedom where the most revolutionary ideas and products destined to make a mark in the history of design are born. Therefore, when we asked 20 selected designers, both Italian and international, emerging and seasoned, what objects they would like to design (and have not yet done), some surprised us, and perhaps surprised themselves, by allowing their minds to venture into truly unexpected territories. Others corrected us on the very premise of the question: we are not seeking a missing type, a checkbox on a creative to-do list. Common to these responses (followed by an obligatory one: what are you presenting at Design Week?) was certainly a premise: in an era where disciplinary boundaries are becoming increasingly blurred, design is increasingly becoming a process intertwining technology, sustainability, and innovation. For a designer, embracing new types of projects means not only professional growth but also contributing to a richer and more articulated project culture. In the world of contemporary design,

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Lauren Rottet

1. I've always wanted to design a flying bicycle or a pocket air conditioner because Houston was so hot, and the bike never went fast enough. More realistically, I'm working on a line of oversized planters as art objects, so even if your plant doesn't survive, you still have a beautiful sculpture. I haven't yet designed a chest of drawers that I'd like to, with large drawers for big items, small compartments for precious ones, and designed under the principles of Light and Space to change with the time of day.
2. I'm collaborating with Turri, the Italian maker of exquisite furniture, to display new pieces from the Rottet Collection. We've also engaged several designers for accessories. On Thursday evening, April 10th, we will participate in a panel discussion titled Weaving the World Together, where experts will discuss the love and passion behind design.