

July/August 1998

# Milan 1998

Furniture designers  
or fashion gurus?

Discovering  
minimal  
Belgium

# FRAME

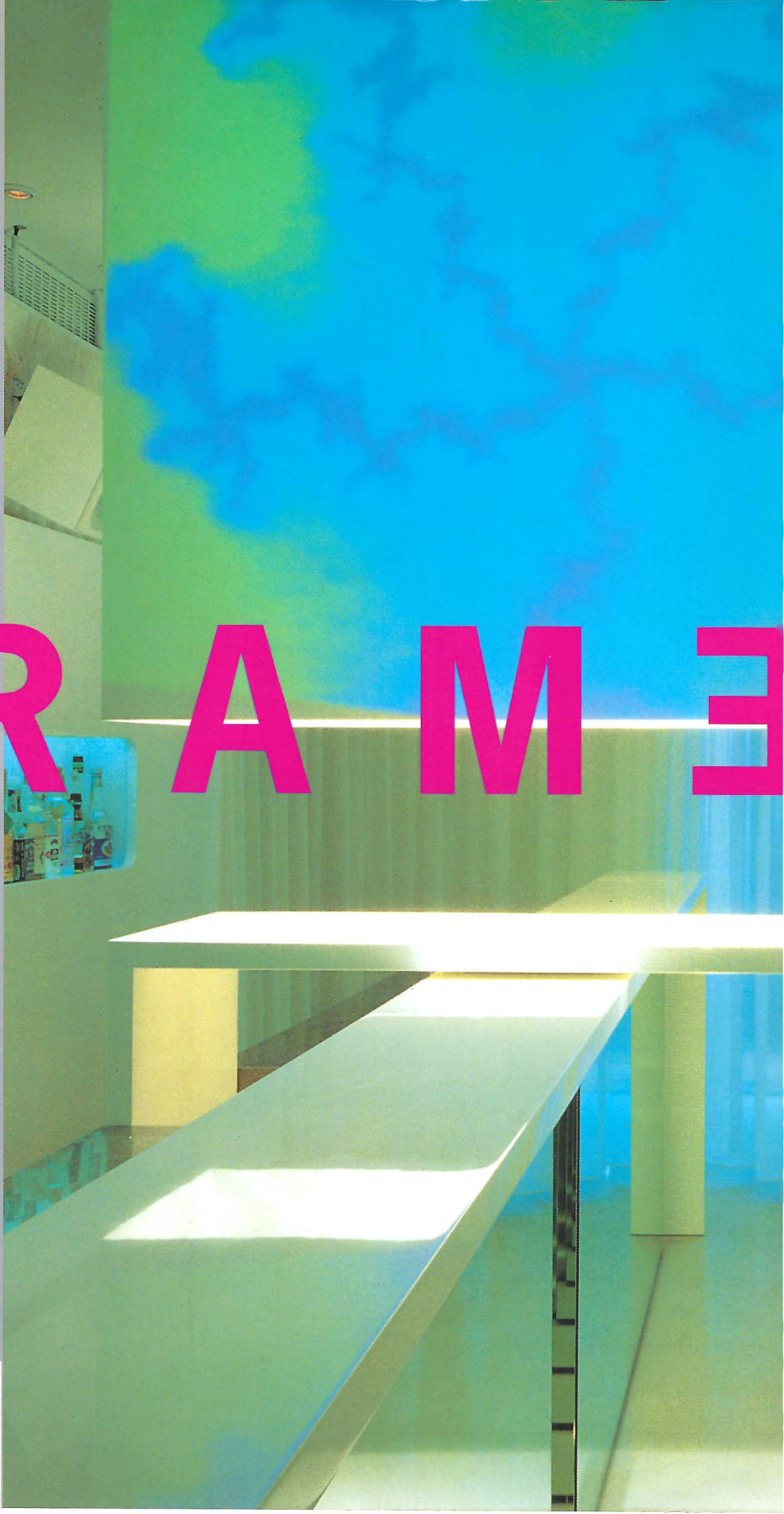
Lazarini &  
Pickering  
The quest for  
perpetual motion

Dutch prisons  
Hotels behind bars?

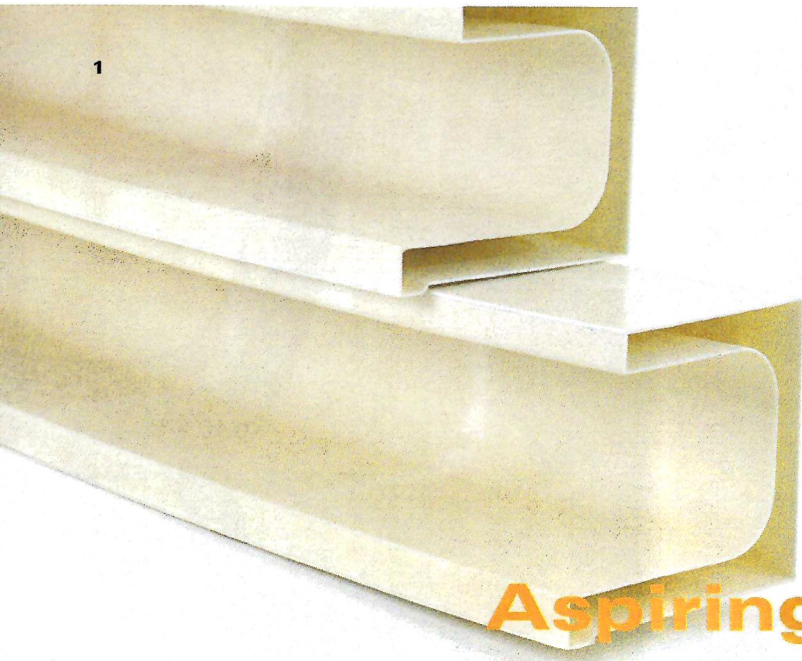
And then  
there was  
light



THE INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN



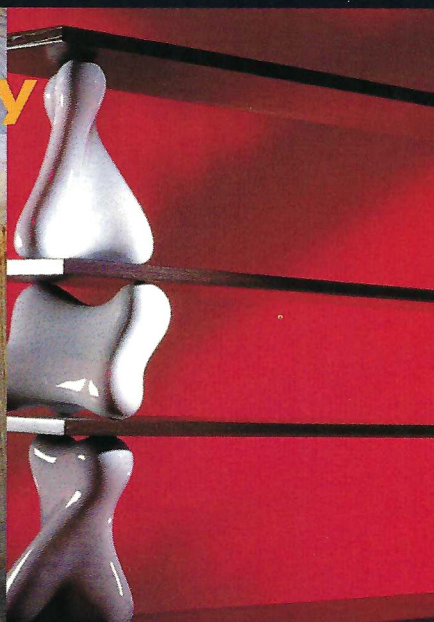
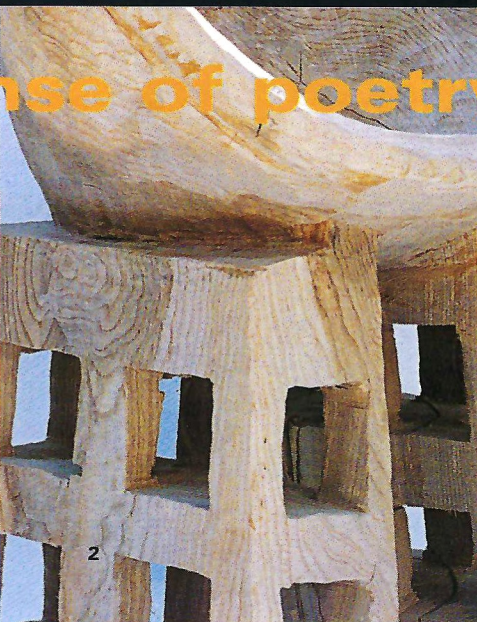
**1 Olma.** A design by Jörg Boner for N2. Two fibre-glass shelves are stacked on top of each other and can be shifted horizontally. Yet this movement seems to serve no particular purpose **2 Bronto.** A design by Richard Hutten for Droog Design. This prototype of a child's chair has been cast in a single piece from a mixture of two types of polyurethane. This production process results in irregularities that Droog Design considers to be ornamentation.



## Aspiring experiments

some punters are backing Konstantin Grcic (the equivalent of Helmut Lang), while other hopefuls include Marc Newson (the Alexander McQueen of the furniture world?) and once again the Armani-like Antonio Citterio.

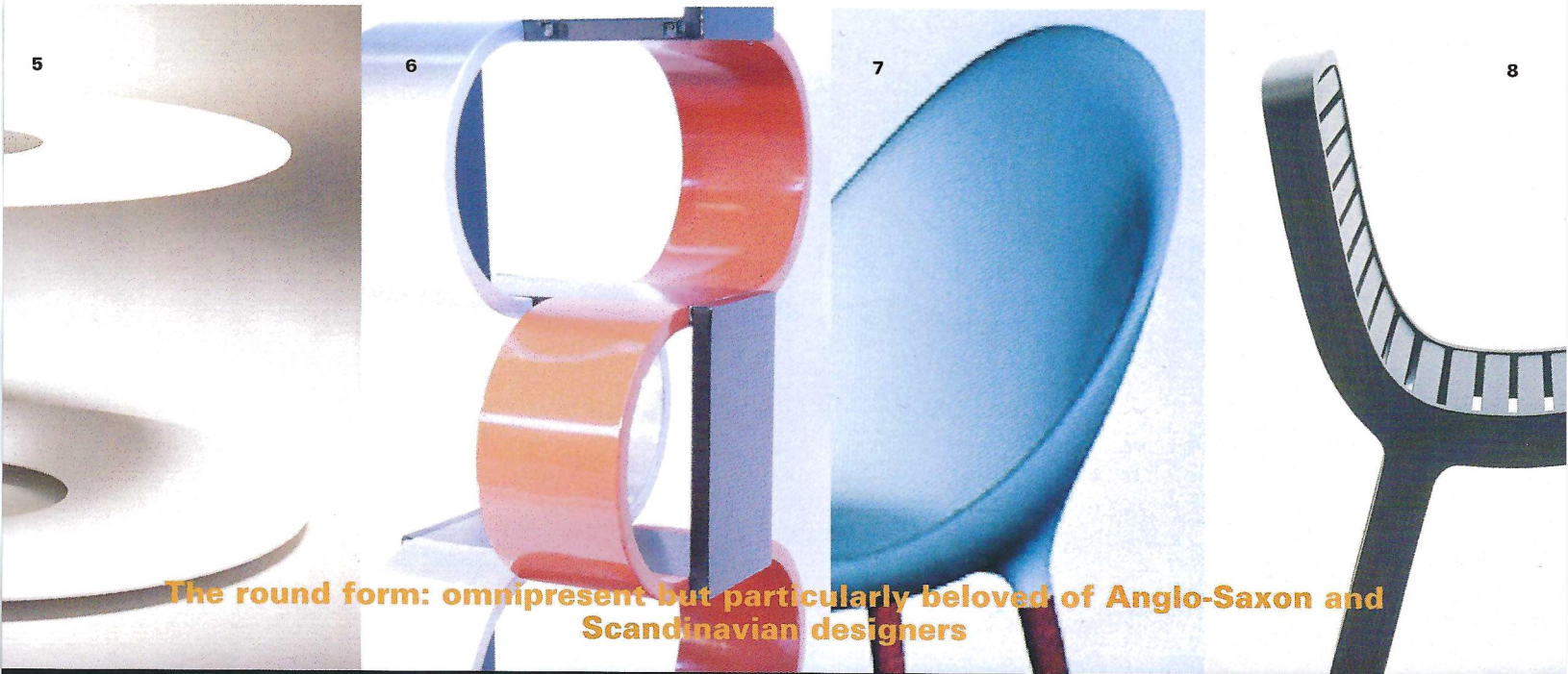
In furniture design, it is rather more difficult to compare trends with a fashion industry that encompasses issues such as deconstructivism and materiality. Trends co-exist and interact in furniture: on the one hand there are extremely modest, transparent and hard designs (which you could describe as a quest for immateriality); on the other (and diametrically



## A sense of poetry

**1 Double Peaches.** A design by Ayala S. Serfaty for Aqua Creations. Featuring wooden legs, hand-painted velvet and leather, this sofa resembles an exotic flower to be found in the ocean's depths **2 Sculpt-chair.** Either as one-offs or as a part of a small series, Natanel Gluska creates his sculpture-chairs from a single piece of hardwood. These products are not polished, rather they are the fruits of sheer physical exertion. You can almost feel the energy that has been put into them. Gluska has sculpted his chairs from nature. They came as something of a relief in Milan where the furniture mostly looked so light and airy that it seemed to have been made with no discernable effort **3 OS.** A design by Philippe Starck for XO. This shelving system's supporting elements can be positioned in various ways allowing for different shelf heights. There are two versions: one in Wengé and China for the top end of the market, and the other in natural beech and polyethylene for the mass market. The supporting elements are strongly anthropomorphic. Are those teeth we see or could they be bones?

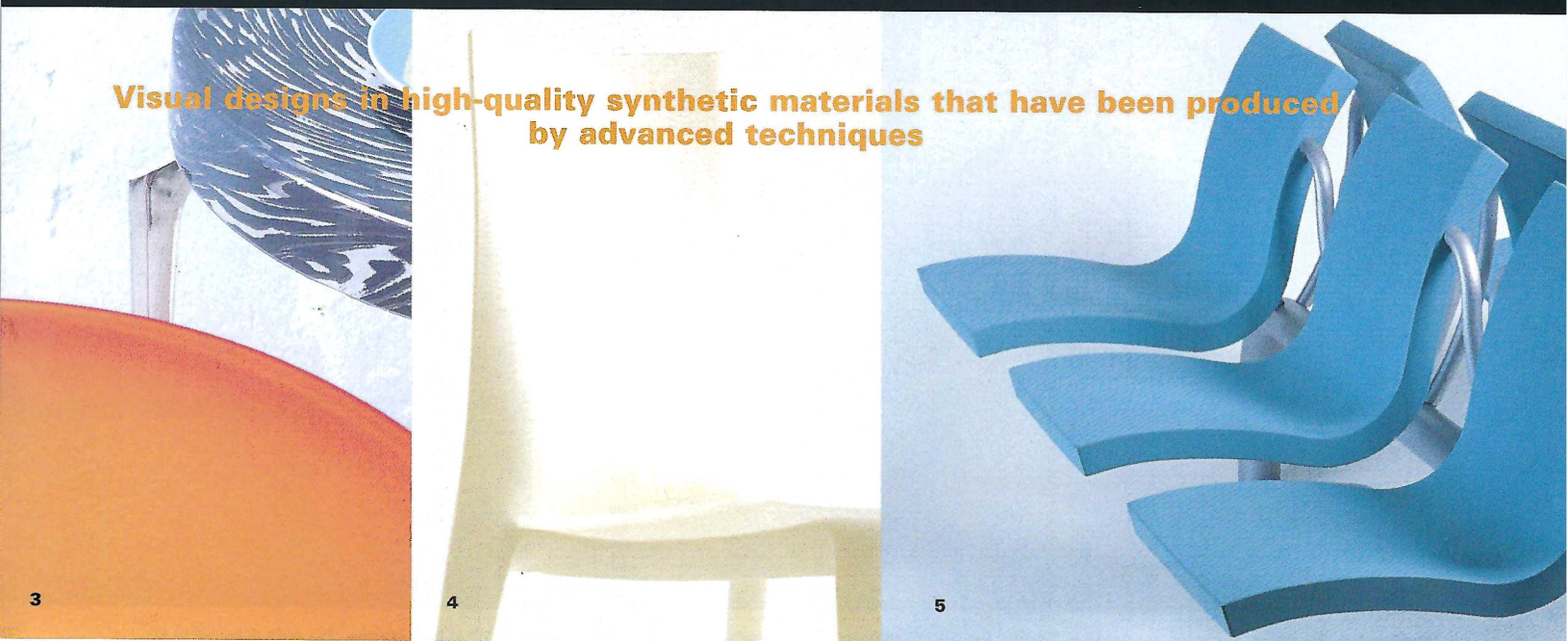
functional products which contribute a sense of gentility and humanism to the environment" **6 Gilles**. A design by BRANCO. This prototype of a modular bookshelf is in painted metal. These oval and rectangular modules are easy to assemble and enable the user to create a bookshelf in virtually any location and at whatever height is required **7 Bombo Chair**. A design by Stefano Giovannoni for Magis. This chair consists of a seat in ABS plastic. Its legs are available in a choice of either steel tube chromed and/or anodized aluminium or natural beech and/or cherry wood. The seat merges seamlessly with the back and combines to form an oval seating shell. Photo: Michele Romeo **8 MY68**. A design by Michael Young for Sawaya & Moroni. The structure of this compact chair is made of solid curved wood with its seat and backrest consisting of wooden slats. In fact, this structure determines the chair's character and folds like a continuous belt to form a large frame



The round form: omnipresent but particularly beloved of Anglo-Saxon and Scandinavian designers

fashion world. Each day the fair was invaded by crowds of people in search of the latest designs by the Big Names. And every evening, a similarly large stream of furniture adepts wended its way through the city, visiting galleries and showrooms. Here, furniture design briefly rubbed shoulders with culture.

As evening turned to night, the design junkies would imbibe chianti, gossip and discuss the latest trends of the Design Greats. Philippe Starck is still the undisputed king of the interior - arguably he is to furniture what Jean-Paul Gaultier is to fashion. Ross Lovegrove is tipped for the top, and, much like John Galliano, he has definitely achieved star status. However, ▶



Visual designs in high-quality synthetic materials that have been produced by advanced techniques

serigraphic patterns. As always, Santachiara imbues his objects with a sense of fun **4 Bellini Chair**. A design by Mario Bellini for Heller. This stackable chair is manufactured in a polymer composite material that includes glass fibre, a combination that creates a comfortable and low-priced seat **5 Magic P6**. A design by Ross Lovegrove for Fasem. This six-seater is a variation on last year's polyurethane bucket seat which is suspended from a metal frame. It vibrates when you sit on it