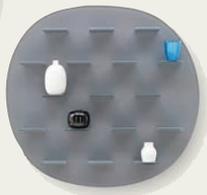


MILAN  
FURNITURE  
FAIR

# LESS IS MORE

A LEANER SALONE DEL MOBILE OFFERED FEWER NEW PRODUCTS, BUT EXCELLENCE STILL PREVAILED  
BY CATHERINE OSBORNE



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VARIOUS MEDIA OUTLETS HAVE BEEN quick to note that the biggest event of the year for designers around the world wasn't quite as mega as years past – a sign of lean economic times in Italy and across Europe. It's true, attendance at Salone del Mobile dropped slightly, and many notable manufacturers scaled back to one or two new product launches rather than 10 or 12, opting instead to push variations on familiar lines. Edra, for instance, invited the Campana brothers to expand on their well-known sofas and cabinets with a new line of matching beds; and Dedon proffered new colourways for already successful collections, such as Stephen Burks' Dala series of outdoor seating, adding smaller complementary objects like planters.

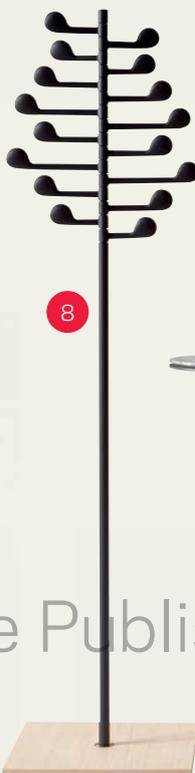
But lower volume is too easy a target of criticism. Salone del Mobile has not lost its top-ranking position just yet, and in many ways it was refreshing not to have so many newfangled pieces trotted out just for novelty's sake. It was also clear that some manufacturers have not slowed down. One only had to visit the Moroso booth to take in a number of impressive new pieces by the likes of Benjamin Hubert, Werner Aisslinger, and Nendo. Off site, Dutch furniture company Moooi put on one of the most talked-about exhibits in years, filling a cavernous warehouse space with dozens of stunning in situ living quarters that showed off products old and new, by Studio Job, Neri & Hu, Nika Zupanc, Joost van Bleiswijk and seven others, including Moooi creative director Marcel Wanders. Titled Unexpected Welcome, the display was a spot of optimism that broke through the economic doldrums. **AZ**

## 1 MADE FROM WATER BOTTLES

The **Pet Lamp**, by Studio Alvaro Catalán de Ocón of Madrid and Colombian artisans, takes water bottles out of the trash vortex and weaves them into beautiful pendants, sold individually or in festive clusters. [petlamp.org](http://petlamp.org)

## 2 CAN WE TALK?

Cartoon voice bubbles inspired designers **Oki Sato** and **Luca Nichetto** to produce their N=N/01 Shelves in a Comic Shelf, part of a series of prototypes they launched with help from Glas Italia, among others. [lucanichetto.com](http://lucanichetto.com), [nendo.jp](http://nendo.jp)



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### 3 ISLAND LIVING

Werner Aisslinger's Bikini Island for **Moroso** is a nod to Louis Réard, who invented the two-piece swimsuit. The furniture designer's multi-purpose sofa is also made of mix-and-match parts, just like a bikini top and bottom. [moroso.it](http://moroso.it)

### 4 TWISTS AND TUBES

Made by **Emeco** with an aluminum tube frame and a wooden seat pan, Konstantin Grcic's Parrish chair was originally conceived for the Parrish Art Museum, a recently completed project by Herzog & de Meuron in Long Island, New York. [emeco.net](http://emeco.net)

### 5 MUTANT STRUCTURE

When unpacked from its shell, this **Campeggi** seating system transforms from a sofa to separate chairs and pouffes that fill a living room. French designer Matali Crasset is the genius behind the piece, named *Concentré de Vie*. [campeggisrl.it](http://campeggisrl.it)

### 6 INTO THE REEDS

Working once again with **Porro**, the Sweden design trio Front has crafted a seductively airy cupboard called Mikado. The two rows of blond wooden slats that make up its doors resemble swaying bamboo grasses. [porro.com](http://porro.com)

### 7 FUNCTIONAL SHAPES

For his first solo show, at Milan's Project B Gallery, rising star **Philippe Malouin** presented containers made from concrete, fire-like pendants; and these desktop pieces shaped out of polished and waxed MDF. [phippemalouin.com](http://phippemalouin.com)

### 8 HOOKED ON MUSIC

Lievore Altherr Molina's Song coat rack for **Arper** looks like a tree lifted from a Dr. Seuss book, though it was actually inspired by music notes. Available as a free-standing tree with 8, 16 or 24 arms, or in a wall-mounted version. [arper.com](http://arper.com)

### 9 MARBLE NEVER DATES

Milan's Carlo Colombo designed Clarke, a sophisticated table topped with marble, launched by **Flexform**. The collection includes round side tables, and oval dining tables in two lengths: two metres and 2.6 metres. [flexformny.com](http://flexformny.com)

### 10 MAD STYLE

Sporting retro wooden spindle legs, Marcel Wanders' one-armed seat for **Poliform** is named the Mad Chair, presumably because Don Draper would look right at home lounging in it. Upholstery available in leather or fabric. [poliform.it](http://poliform.it)

### 11 BASKETS MADE FROM TRASH

**Dedon** has expanded its popular Dala collection of outdoor furniture made from recycled food packaging to include planters and lanterns, all designed by New York's Stephen Burks. [dedon.de](http://dedon.de)