

TEXT: TINA THAKRAR



CONFIGURED TO PRECISION

Lightweight and fluid, SWISH has been designed using 27 thin, wooden rounded elements. Each of the hinges used to hold the pieces together has been individually designed, interlocking the various components in unique configurations.

When folded, the seat resembles a comb-like shape, which can be hung onto a wall. Crafted by Carlo Ratti Associati in association with Cassina, the kinetic wooden stool is highly flexible and fully sustainable. It works on the scientific principle of implicit programming and self-assembly, to create a smart product that can assume kinetic predetermined configurations.

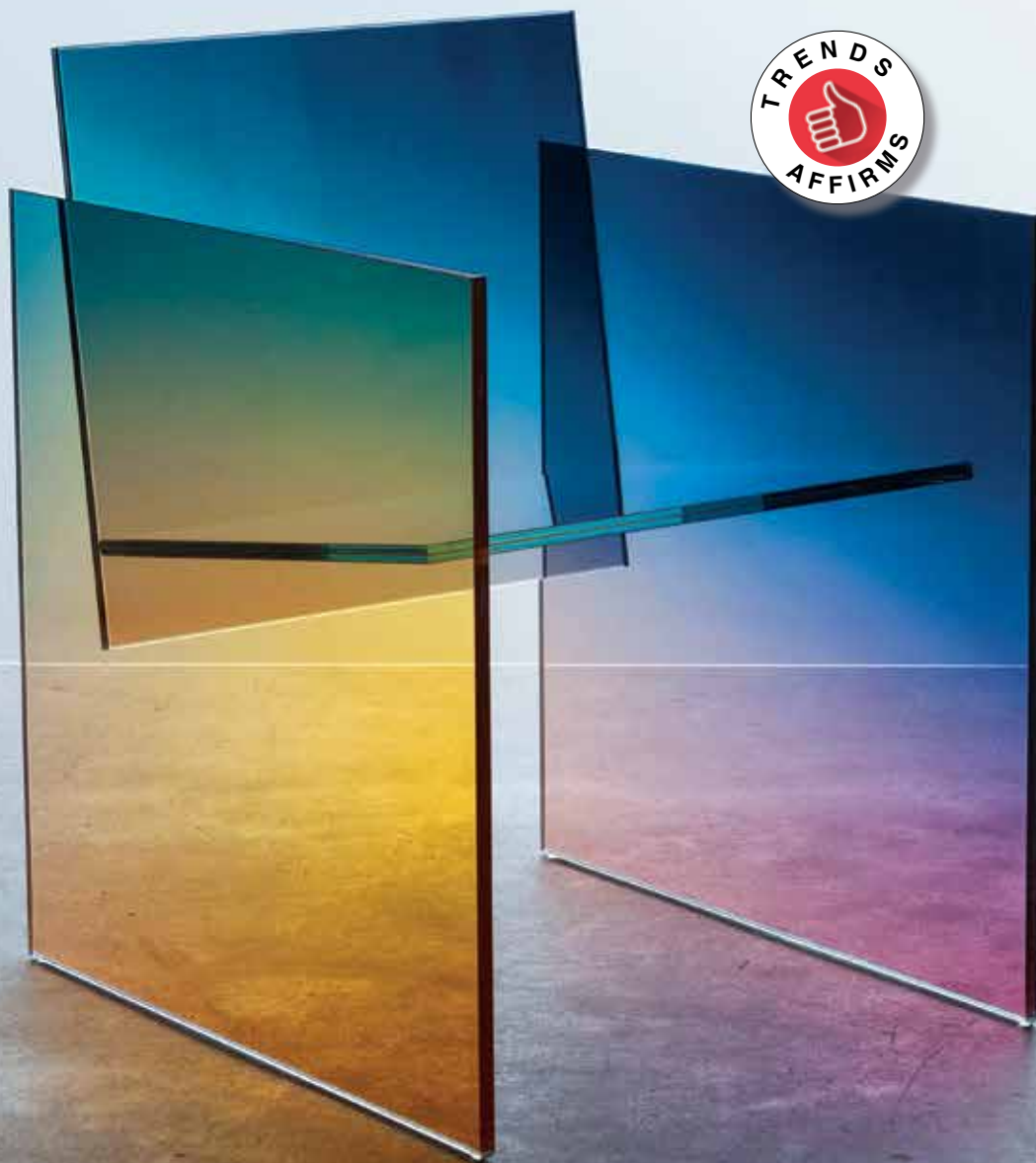


DANIELE IODICE



TRANSPARENT SPECTRUM

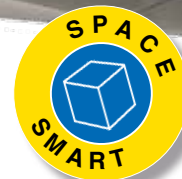
Imagine a chair that doesn't look solid, but still stays true to its function. One of Japan's most influential designers, Shiro Kuramata didn't just come up with the idea; he implemented it. With his iconic Glass Chair (1976), he emphasised the simplicity, transparency and weightlessness of glass to create a breakthrough piece of furniture. As a tribute to Kuramata, Germans Ermičs put up an installation at this year's Salone del Mobile in Milan featuring his Ombré Glass Chair. Using six colourful planes of clear glass, Ermičs created a piece devoid of screws, mounts or reinforcements using Photobond 100, a revolutionary technology that cleanly bonds glass.





SET-UP, SIT UP

HUBB is not just a set of building blocks, it's a modular furniture concept that can go from a chair to a booth in minutes. Identified as an innovative, sustainable solution for workspaces of tomorrow, HUBB has been designed by Mecanoo and Gispen using steel, responsibly sourced timber and recycled PET material. HUBB offers flexibility of customisation in rapidly changing workspaces, and can be mounted in endless combinations of configurations depending on its use as an independent or group working space. It comes with a table, roof, and other add-ons.





THE FORCE OF NATURE

Crafted by design student Lisa Ertel, Dune is a family of seating furniture made of solid wood that is sandblasted to reveal how time impacts material. The soft early wood is removed to reveal the annual rings of the tree. The wood is naturally grown, but is designed with an industrial process, balancing the look between classic and contemporary. Inspired by the archaic forms of stone benches, the furniture exudes a soft, warm appeal.

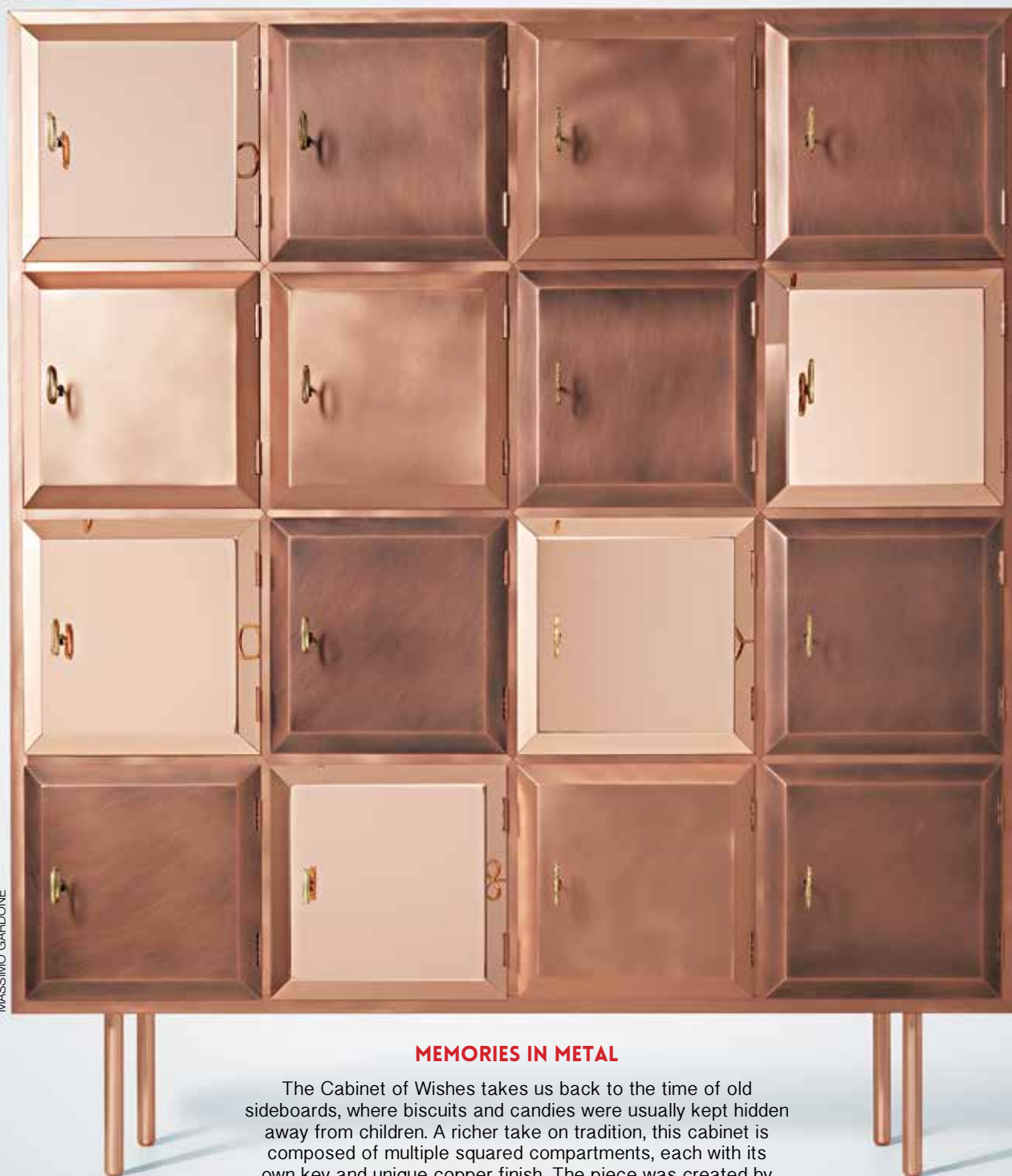




ALL PLAY, NO WORK

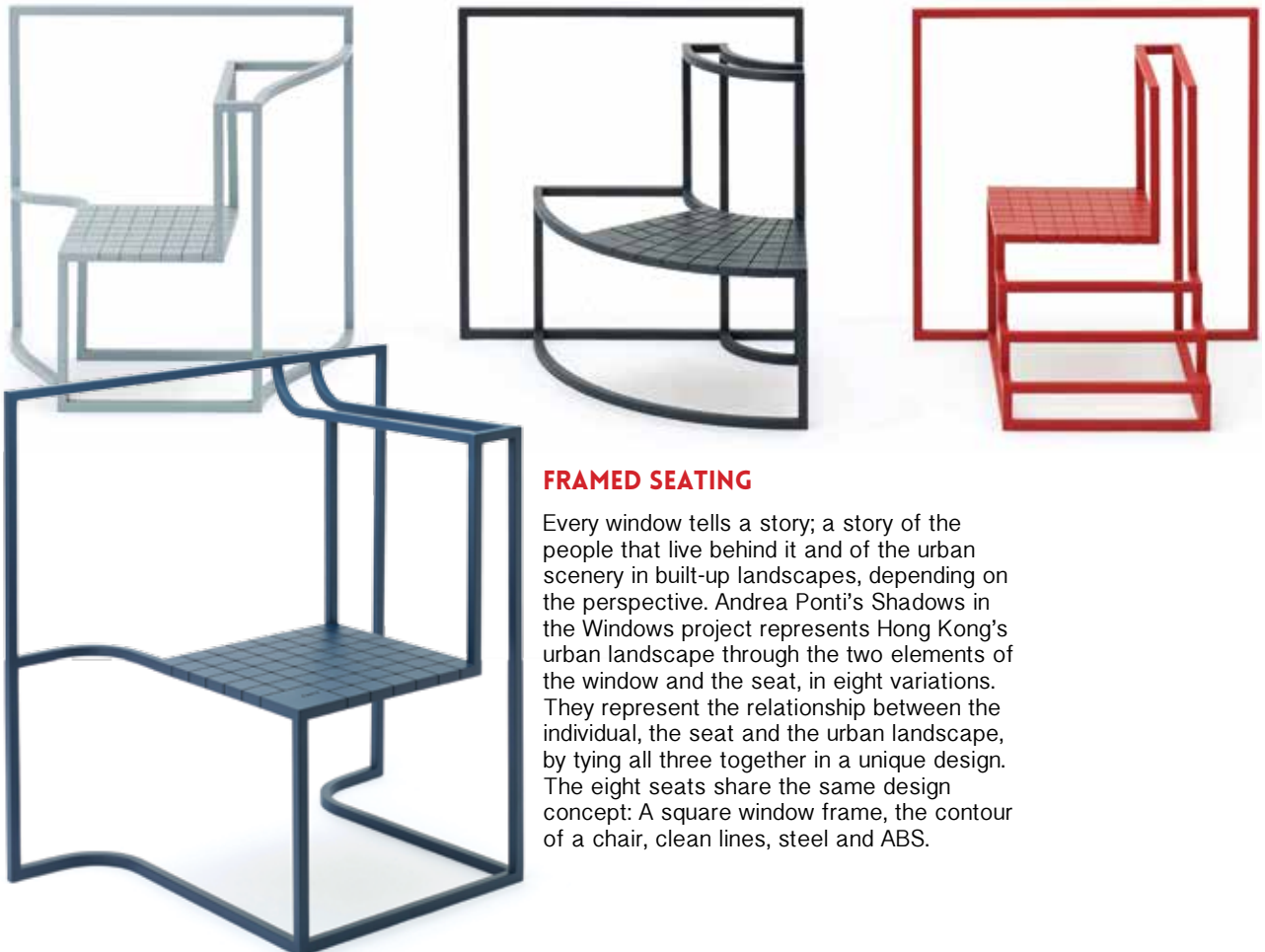
Continuing its journey from Milan Design Week last year (when the first collection was launched), PLAYplay's second collection is just as spirited as its first. The colourful, bold range includes a sofa, tall shelves, consoles and a desk for the compact, contemporary home. Oak brings in a light, woody feel, whereas pops of yellow, orange, pink and teal offer a fresh take on the collection. The versatile pieces have been created by Lanzavecchia + Wai for Journey East.





MEMORIES IN METAL

The Cabinet of Wishes takes us back to the time of old sideboards, where biscuits and candies were usually kept hidden away from children. A richer take on tradition, this cabinet is composed of multiple squared compartments, each with its own key and unique copper finish. The piece was created by Nika Zupanc as part of De Castelli's Tracing Identity project that brought seven female designers together to create metal furniture with an emotional allure.



FRAMED SEATING

Every window tells a story; a story of the people that live behind it and of the urban scenery in built-up landscapes, depending on the perspective. Andrea Ponti's Shadows in the Windows project represents Hong Kong's urban landscape through the two elements of the window and the seat, in eight variations. They represent the relationship between the individual, the seat and the urban landscape, by tying all three together in a unique design. The eight seats share the same design concept: A square window frame, the contour of a chair, clean lines, steel and ABS.



POCKET EMBRACE

The Pocket armchair has two primary features — the storage pocket under the seat and the warm curve that wraps around the user. A collaboration between Stone Designs and Blå Station, the padded armchair creates a private environment in even the busiest of spaces. The cup-like shell is made of environmentally-friendly PurCore covered with soft foam, upholstered in fabric or leather, and stands on stable steel legs. Pocket offers storage opportunities in hotel lobbies, waiting areas, bars, restaurants, and even the home and office.

INDEFINITE REVERIE

Lounging gets a whole new meaning with Daydream by Joynout. True to its name, Daydream is designed to make the user feel completely at ease. Inspired by the infinity symbol, the seat creates an incline position, promoting a relaxed state. Two identical cushion panels are interlocked to create an 'x', which can seat two people. The timber frame and Kvadrat textiles in multiple colours add to its appeal.





BRANCHING OUT

The tentacular legs of the Dune sofa rise up around its cushioned oval seat, culminating in flat, round tables. The product is suited for flexible workplaces that call for informal meetings in relaxed settings, as well as for interactive public spaces. Capable of accommodating upto eight people, Dune has been designed by Swedish design studio Front for Ofecct. For such a large piece of furniture, Dune has an inherent sense of lightness owing largely to its spindly legs. Its four tables are affixed with USB ports as well as hooks to hang coats and bags.



STIMULATED SPECIES

The Agave cabinet by Esrawe Studio has a unique inspiration — the product reflects the production process of Mezcal, an alcoholic beverage culled from the Agave plant in Mexico. Similar to Mezcal, each cabinet is designed slightly different from the others, owing to the skills of the artisans that craft them. They are produced in wood, metal or brass and pay homage to the tradition and culture surrounding Mezcal and the Agave.



PAOLO DA RONCO