

STILL LIFE

The Art of Living

Press Release
Milan Design Week
2023

For Milan Design Week 2023, Gabriel Tan has curated an exhibition set in an authentic home of a Milanese couple in Porta Venezia. This intimate setting will feature furniture by Ariake, handcrafted collectibles by Origin Made, bentwood lighting by Secto Design, Ethiopian-made rugs by Sera Helsinki, calm technology by mui, and a new headboard collaboration between Swedish luxury bed company DUXIANA and Ariake. Each brand is a master in one's own field but all share a common dedication to the art of making and a more enjoyable way of living. We aim to surprise visitors by creating the feeling of walking into a real home during Milan Design Week, one that is eclectic and harmonious — a slow, safe haven from the frenetic pace of Salone.

The exhibition features new designs by Norm Architects, Rui Alves, Staffan Holm, Philippe Malouin, Claesson Koivisto Rune, Sebastian Herkner, Laura Seppänen, Anna Pirkola, Peeta Peltola, Seppo Koho, Gabriel Tan, and artworks by Tomek Sadurski. The apartment will also host design conversations moderated by Hanna Nova Beatrice and Tony Chambers, discussing the intersection of design, craft and, technology.

ARI
AKE
有明



Ariake is a furniture brand founded by Legnatec and Hirata Chair: two furniture factories from Morodomi in Saga prefecture, Japan. Named after the nearby Ariake Sea, Ariake also means 'daybreak' in Japanese. The collaboration started in 2016 when the owner of Legnatec, Takehiro Kabashima and the owner of Hirata Chair, Shoji Hirata, met designer and creative director Gabriel Tan with an ambition to export their furniture to the world. A long term vision was established and with branding by Zurich-based Anner Perrin, the Ariake brand was born.

It is Ariake's belief that strong working relationships form the foundation of good products. Furniture is made for social situations where people live, work and eat together. The creation of Ariake's first three collections were done over intensive workshops in Japan where designers and craftsmen did the same – they lived, worked and ate together. Inspired by the spirituality of Japanese culture, utilising the best of hand and machine, Ariake makes wood furniture designed by some of the world's most progressive designers.

Ariake's 2023 collection features new products by Norm Architects, Rui Alves and Staffan Holm.



Summit Dining Chair (new release)

Designed by
Norm Architects

Inspired by classic Scandinavian cabinetmaker chairs, the construction is light and transparent, clearly showing off all elements of the chair. The cigar-shaped profiles illustrate where the chair needs to be strong and robust, creating a natural flow throughout the chair.

With wide armrests and a high backrest, this chair is meant for both dining and engaged conversations. The name "Summit" refers to this meeting and discussion between people, where we imagine our chairs would play host to.



Hane Chair (new release)

Designed by
Rui Alves

Hane, which means wing or feather in Japanese, is a stackable dining chair with an oversized backrest. An honest design with enjoyable details, the chair has an overall light appearance but sturdy construction. The wide backrest allows freedom of movement and provides maximum comfort, moulded to embrace the user's body like a wing.



Hikari Cabinet (new release)

Designed by
Staffan Holm

Hikari means “light” in Japanese, and this cabinet is designed and constructed in a way which allows the maximum amount of light in, so that our most precious items can be illuminated by the environment. Made of the distinctively clear-grained Japanese Hinoki wood, Hikari is a display cabinet where clarity and transparency let your favorite items shine.



Ariake Chair

Designed by
Gabriel Tan

The Ariake chair, armchair, and bench product family is made with the harmony of both handwork and advanced machining. Its form combines classical and new joinery details, and the seat can be woven with leather straps, canvas straps, paper cord, or covered with a leather seat pad or washable fabric seat pad. This versatility makes them highly compatible with a wide variety of interior spaces.



Braid Sofa

Designed by
Norm Architects

Designed in collaboration with Studio MK27, the repetitive sticks of the back and the paper cord braided armrests are inspired by patterns found in classic bamboo constructions and tatami mats. This is combined with elements of traditional Danish cabinetmakers' furniture – with subtle references to the masterpieces created by Børge Mogensen, Hans Bølling and Finn Juhl. The deep and low sofa is created for a lounge environment and the beautiful rear structure ensure that they are perfect not only against a wall, but also in the middle of a space.



Lattice Table

Designed by
Norm Architects

A dining table that investigates the interplay between being transparent and solid, the wooden lattices build up the legs and the natural spacing between the slats plays with both light and shadow. From some angles the legs will appear as a closed surface, only revealing its construction when light flows through. The construction is inspired by the shutters and covers that are used in architecture to control light streaming into buildings, and the calming repetitions create an overall clear architectural expression, which one often will find in front of traditional Japanese stores and restaurants.



Kumiko Cabinet

Designed by
Staffan Holm

In Japan, there are very strong visual aspects of using Kumiko: screens that can be ornamental but also for privacy, especially in restaurants. Inspired by these traditional Japanese kumiko screens' craftsmanship, this piece of furniture combines semi see-through screens with a very well crafted cabinet to create an interesting composition where if a light were to be placed within, it would give a warm glow to the room, enabling the whole cabinet unit to turn into a lamp of sorts.

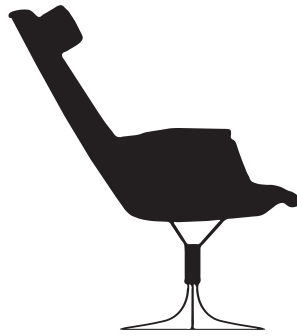


Shoji Screen

Designed by
Gabriel Tan

A space divider which can fold into a coat rack, this versatile piece of furniture allows the user to hang blankets, throws and hats to create a functional screen. The hinges are made from elastic canvas straps and the structure includes steam bent solid wood parts.

DUXIANA®



In 1924, the Swedish chocolate maker Efraim Ljung checked into a small hotel in Chicago and was fascinated by how comfortable the bed was. Using a small pocketknife, he carefully cut open the mattress to discover flexible springs inside. Back home in Sweden, Efraim shifted his focus from his confectionary business and began devoting all his time to experimenting with flexible steel springs of varying strengths and elasticity. He formed DUX and began manufacturing mattresses in Malmö in 1926. Over 90 years on, DUX is still 100% family-owned. Efraim Ljung's four great-grandchildren, Henrik, Charlotte, Anders and Oscar have readily assumed Efraim's role, expertly running the company along the path set forth by their ancestors.

DUX High Performance Sleep Systems are the result of nearly nine decades of research and testing. At the core of every DUX mattress is a remarkably engineered system whose spring components are precisely calibrated and configured to accommodate the size, shape and weight of its user. DUX technology is based upon an encyclopedic understanding of sleep mechanics.

DUX technology provides the most ergonomically sophisticated bed available on the market. DUX designs are characterized by clean, simple, and contemporary lines. All DUX products are made from top of the line materials, with the finest Swedish craftsmanship, ergonomic research and engineering.



DUX x Ariake Yasumi Headboard, Night Table and Night Stand (new release)

Designed by
Gabriel Tan

The Yasumi headboard, night table and night stand marks the first collaboration between Swedish luxury bed company DUX and Japanese furniture brand Ariake, designed by Gabriel Tan, creative director of Ariake. Made from Japanese Hinoki wood, this headboard is named 'Yasumi' which means "rest" in Japanese. Hinoki is Japan's most revered conifer, renowned for its beautiful clear wood grain and calming fragrance. Hinoki's aroma is a result of its natural phytoncides, released to protect against bacteria and harmful organisms – and have a range of benefits, from promoting relaxation, calming the nervous system to deterring mites that trigger allergies. Hinoki also has an air purification effect and is resistant to humidity and rot. The design intention was to combine these aforementioned properties of Hinoki with the high quality of sleep that DUX beds provide, thereby creating a headboard that is meditative and elegant. The headboard extends past the width of the bed, allowing customers to configure their own preferred nightstand either with a cantilevered table of Kolmården marble - a beautiful Swedish stone, or with a modular storage drawer unit which comes in three different heights to match those of different DUX beds.



Jetson

Designed by
Bruno Mathsson

The Jetson is an icon of Swedish furniture design. Bruno Mathsson spent three years working on this futuristic armchair design, which takes its name from an American TV series, before approaching DUX to realise his design. The result was unveiled at an exhibition at Nordiska Galleriet in Stockholm in 1969 and it was a resounding success. The chair has a bowl-shaped seat and a high ergonomically-designed back with headrest. It also has a base with a unique memory function, which allows the chair to rotate back to its original position.



Lunaria Table

Designed by
Claesson Koivisto Rune

Made in natural ash with wax oil, Lunaria's personality comes from its use of soft and warm wood. Its subtle, irregularly rounded table top is reminiscent of how the moon can appear distorted due to the refraction of light by the earth's atmosphere. The versatile Lunaria tables come in three different sizes and is manufactured by DUX in Sweden.



The Domus Collection

Designed by
Norm Architects

The Domus Collection, originally designed for DUX by Alf Svensson in 1960, was revitalized in 2020 by Norm Architects and was restored to the range after DUX and the architects browsed through the archive of old classics during a previous collaborative project. The Domus collection includes the Domus Chair: Wood with matching footstool, Domus Chair: Steel in leather and a newly designed addition to the collection, The Domus Table in wood with Travertine Romano top.

Domus Chair: Wood has a solid oak frame treated with wax oil. The cushions are introduced in grey fabric and sit on wooden slats. The cushions are made of cold cured foam to ensure long-term comfort and performance. The chair has a wooden slatted back and no armrests. The chair also has a matching footstool and table which are sold separately.



Pernilla 69

Designed by
Bruno Mathsson

Pernilla 69 is the queen of seating comfort and is another fine example of great design by Bruno Mathsson paired with hand crafted, attention to detail manufacture by DUX. A classic easy chair in pressed moulded beech wood with fine details and great comfort.



Origin Made is a design collectibles brand from Portugal which pairs contemporary design with traditional craftsmanship to bring about a greater appreciation for raw materials and handmade processes. Origin Made designs and works with small-scale producers to make craft collectibles for the home that the brand believes can serve an important role in modern society.

Handmade processes bear a sense of nostalgia and authenticity, inspiring us to refocus our attention on people and human relationships. By pairing contemporary design with craft skills developed over generations, Origin Made creates interior objects, lighting and furniture that can be enjoyed and appreciated over time. Collaborating directly with family-run workshops and solo artisans enables Origin Made to discover local methods and raw materials which the brand endeavors to communicate through unique and beautiful products. Origin Made was launched at Stockholm Design Week in 2019 and has since been present at design shows in New York, Oslo, Copenhagen and Milan.



Brut (new release)

Designed by
Philippe Malouin

Handcrafted by
Vitor Silva

British-Canadian designer Philippe Malouin designed these brutalist modular sculptures that allow the user to compose different forms for holding fruits, jewellery and stationery or act as statement centrepieces.

This series is cast in concrete by Vitor Silva in the North of Portugal, with an air-dry, slow production process of one bowl a day per mold.



Tulipa Pots (new release)

Designed by
Claesson Koivisto Rune

Handcrafted by
João Lourenço

Stockholm-based design and architecture pioneers Claesson Koivisto Rune designed these series of tulip-shaped terracotta planters with the juxtaposition of scale in mind. From the very small to the very large, and everything in between, the planters come in four different sizes and enable the user to hold a variety of different sized plants to form an architectural dialogue when they are placed next to each other.



Constellation Incense Burner (new release)

Designed by
Sebastian Herkner

Handcrafted by
Francisco Andrade

This solid brass incense burner designed by Sebastian Herkner and made by Francisco Andrade, allows the use of up to nine incense sticks at a time. With three different hole sizes to fit incense sticks of different diameters, the engraved groove lines on the polished brass surface give a sense of scale and also demonstrates the fine craftsmanship of Francisco.



Ornament and Crime (new release)

Designed by
Gabriel Tan

Handcrafted by
Carlos Barbosa

Named after the essay by Adolf Loos published in 1913, this wall and tabletop sculpture broaches the same topic but offers an alternative viewpoint more relevant to our times. We advocate that symbolism and aesthetics should also be considered functions, as objects with meaning and good aesthetics contribute to a more layered and enriched space, resulting in more positive interactions and emotions in the people who inhabit it. Masks and head sculptures have been part of various cultures since the beginning of recorded time and represents our humanity. Our goal was to translate this cultural icon into a material sculpture, one devoid of cultural appropriations and can exist harmoniously with furniture and objects in a contemporary home.



Évora Side Table (new release)

Designed by
Norm Architects

Handcrafted by
Philipp Grundhöfer

The massive round columns of this architecture-inspired side table are reminiscent of Roman ruins found in various sites around Portugal, the most iconic of which is the Évora temple.



Artesão Side Table (new release)

Designed by
Norm Architects

Handcrafted by
Philipp Grundhöfer

The Artesão side table features a massive central plinth that is split in half and offset. Designed by Norm Architects, the table base is hand-carved and finished by Porto based, German craftsman Grundhöfer.



Meia Lua Chair (new release)

Designed by
Gabriel Tan

Handcrafted by
Carlos Barbosa

Meia Lua means "Half Moon" in Portuguese. Gabriel Tan wanted to create an armchair that is both functional and collectible - one that can hold its own if displayed singularly in the middle of a space, while also suitable around a dining table for everyday use. Inspired by crescent shaped three-legged chairs of the late 50s, this chair bears new and unusual details such as its paper cord braided armrests, giving a wonderful sense of tactility against one's skin. The chair combines the skills of woodworker Carlos Barbosa and weaver Maria Adelina Ferreira, made in the north of Portugal.



Weaver's Chair (new release)

Designed by
Gabriel Tan

Handcrafted by
Carlos Barbosa

The Weaver's Chair is the latest addition to The Weaver's Collection. This collection came about when Gabriel Tan met Maria Adelina, one of the last known weavers in Pacos Ferreira, a furniture producing town in Portugal. Dona Lina's energy and passion for her craft was deeply inspiring. She spoke about her work in a buoyant way and displayed great eagerness to continue developing her skills. Ultimately, Gabriel Tan designed a seating collection to showcase her craft - with robust solid wood profiles strong enough to weave around and are very stable.

mui



mui is a Kyoto- based calm technology startup specializing in designing “calm user interface (UI)” that can improve people’s wellbeing. Blending technology and the spirituality and sense of beauty behind Japanese craftsmanship to bridge the gap between human’s seemingly conflicting desires: Using conventional technology to attain the convenience of life and seeking comfort in nature. mui is a two-time winner of CES Innovation Awards (2019 & 2022) and received the 2021 Archiproducts DESIGN Awards both in the general and sustainability categories. mui conducts global business from its headquarters in Kyoto, a city known for its successful blending of tradition and technology.



mui Board 2nd Gen

Designed by
mui

To be released on Kickstarter in early summer, 2023, the mui Board 2nd Gen is the Matter-ready version of the company's signature mui Board. Designed to keep technology out of users' consciousness and to prevent information overload, mui Board is a minimalist smart home controller made of wood. The mui Board turns itself on only when you need to access important information. The board will otherwise remain turned off, visually blending into the home like a piece of furniture. The board is designed to let you communicate with your family via handwritten messages and display the status of connected smart home devices through its Calm User Interface (CUI). With a single finger stroke, the mui Board's warm wood surface changes your relationship to

technology. You can use the mui Board to perform a variety of tasks, ranging from checking the local weather to reminding you about family events that you have entered in your calendar via the mui mobile app. The mui Board comes with different timer options to choose from. The device is designed to automatically display information that enriches your daily living. The mui Board can be utilized to remotely control a wide range of IoT devices and appliances, including lighting, A/C units, and connected speakers. The mui Board 2nd Gen allows for easy integration with other connected devices serving as a singular interface that provides a calmer experience as well as better security and privacy protection via Matter's higher security standard.



Bedroom Board

Lighting

- Group control
- Dimming
- Light timer



Kitchen Board

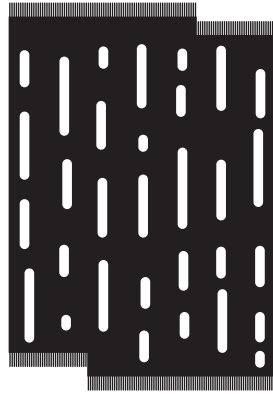
Timers

- Appreciate the passing of time with beautifully animated timers.



Living Room Board

- Music Control (Sonos)
- Weather Forecast
- Other minor functions



Sera Helsinki was born from a love for design and a desire to create a better future. Our roots lie in Scandinavian design, and they intertwine with Ethiopian craftsmanship heritage. Every rug empowers the most vulnerable groups in Ethiopia – people with disabilities and single mothers.

Transparent design enables a change towards inclusion, equality and accessibility. One in five people living in extreme poverty has a disability, and in many African cultures disability is a major stigma. Sera’s goal is to promote the inclusion of disabled people and women through employment, because work is strongly linked to livelihood and a meaningful life. Together with NGOs, Sera has taught artisans the skills and rights that enable them to become active members of their community. A total of 180 artisans have been trained in Addis Ababa. In remote mountain villages, more than 300 disabled shepherds and thread makers have received training so that they can be part of the transparent carpet production chain. Sera Helsinki wanted to create a new joint collection with Finnish female designers. “From the beginning, Sera Helsinki has seen that design plays an important role in order to improve the status of minorities in Ethiopia. It was great to give the women free rein and see what the wonderful carpet tradition can do.” Anna Suoheimo, CEO of Sera Helsingin says.



Virta (new release)

Designed by
Anna Pirkola

"Inspiration has partly come from nature, but at the same time I have been fascinated by different lines, squares and the Bauhaus grid world. You can think of the name as coming from the "flowing" lines of the carpet, which could be, for example, water bodies, from which emerge various natural forms, islands, rocks, driftwood. At the same time, they can also be graphic patterns from another world, but in accordance with the weaving style typical of Sera carpets, they come to life and form organic lines and shapes. The straight lines of the rug are actually knotted so that the mixture of their pile is a combination of brown and white, so that the line would never go completely straight, but would live its own life."



Nurja (new release)

Designed by
By Laura Seppänen

"I wanted to design a carpet that takes part in its surroundings. Instead of the carpet's essence taking over the space, it rather gives it, thus becoming a part of the whole. The name "Nurja" comes from the unruly arrangement of the fringes of the rug. The geometric regularity of the rug, the differences in the height of the pile and the placement of the fringes together form a seemingly calm, yet interesting whole with details."



Vuoristo (new release)

Designed by
Peeta Peltola

"I was very happy when Sera proposed cooperation regarding the rug collection. It was really inspiring to be able to make a joint collection together with other talented designers. I have always admired Sera's rugs and towels, and the story behind them. I wanted to make an asymmetric pattern that breaks through the rug. I drew the pattern freehand and for the first drafts it fell into place and felt good. Sera's artisans made a version of the pattern based on my sketch that can be duplicated and I liked it right away. The colors of the rug are so neutral that the pattern allows room for play. The high knots emphasize the pattern. I heard that the rug makers had seen the mountain range around their home in the pattern, and now I can see it too! That's how the carpet got its name."



E-1027

Designed by
By Samu-Jussi Koski

"Minorities' rights and broader human rights have always been close to my heart. Sera Helsinki's mission truly inspired me, and it was a joy for me to create a new rug model for Sera. As a designer in this project, I felt that I could directly influence women with disabilities in Ethiopia. The name E-1027 reveals the source of the inspiration: a modernist Villa by the architect Eileen Gray."



Valli

Designed by
Anna Pirkola

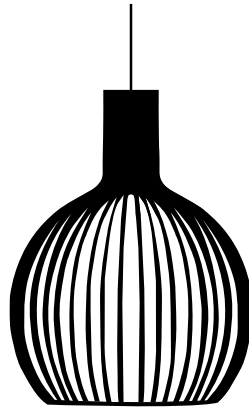
Valli carpet is from the Saaristo collection designed by Anna Pirkola. This carpet is knotted with two heights. The pattern of the carpet is about 2,5 cm high and the base of the carpet is about 1 cm high. Available in three color combinations.



Laine

Designed by
Anna Pirkola

The Laine rug from the Saaristo collection by Anna Pirkola is knotted in two different heights creating a pattern. The pattern of the rug is about 2,5 cm high and the base of the rug is about 1 cm high. Available in three color combinations. The design is identical with the woven version, the knotted technique of the base is different.



Secto Design is a Finnish company specializing in handmade design lamps from top quality PEFC certified local birch. All the Secto Design lamps are sustainably and ecologically manufactured by highly talented cabinetmakers in the factory in Heinola, Finland. They are appreciated for their Scandinavian design and well-known for their versatility and ability to fit in many different interiors and styles. All the Secto Design lamps use modern LED technology.

The entire collection consisting of 29 different models, is designed by the award-winning architect Seppo Koho. As the whole lighting range shares the same unique visual language, it is easy to mix and match the lamps and to use them to create a harmonious look throughout the space. The variety in color, size and shape allows one to easily find a solution that is both visually pleasing as well as practical. By combining models one can create captivating installations or impressive focal points.



Owalo 7020 table lamp

Designed by
Seppo Koho

A table lamp from the Owalo series, Owalo 7020 is a sleek lamp that works really well by the bed as well as on the window sill, due to its slim frame. The shades are handcrafted in Finland from top-quality local birch and come in four different finishes: untreated natural birch, white or black laminate or in walnut veneer. The base is made of fine textured powder coated steel.



Teelo 8020 table lamp

Designed by
Seppo Koho

Teelo 8020 continues the simple yet stylish Secto Design collection bringing in an additional sculptural tone. The clear yet beautiful lines of Teelo, together with the light source designed never to blind the viewer, offer an eye-soothing lighting experience. The detail in the design gives a sophisticated finishing touch. Like the rest of the collection, Teelo table lamp is made from top-quality Finnish birch wood and comes in natural birch or walnut veneer finishes.



Secto 4220 table lamp

Designed by
Seppo Koho

The stable Secto 4220 table lamp creates a warm ambiance to the space. It is often seen on a side table or a dresser highlighting nooks. The shades are handcrafted in Finland from top-quality local birch and come in four different finishes: untreated natural birch, white or black laminate or in walnut veneer. The base is made of fine textured powder coated steel.



Secto 4210 floor lamp

Designed by
Seppo Koho

The Secto 4210 floor lamp is a striking living room companion. It is one of the original models in the Secto series. By combining several floor lights together it is possible to create interesting groups. The shades are handcrafted in Finland from top-quality local birch and come in four different finishes: untreated natural birch, white or black laminate or in walnut veneer. The base is made of fine textured powder coated steel.



Petite 4620 table lamp

Designed by
Seppo Koho

Petites add a smaller sized alternative to the traditional Secto Design lighting range. The Petite 4620 table lamp is adjustable as its shade turns gently pointing light where you need it the most. The shades are handcrafted in Finland from top-quality local birch and come in four different finishes: untreated natural birch, white or black laminate or in walnut veneer. The metal parts are made of powder painted steel. Like the rest of the collection, the Petites also use the latest LED technology.



Secto 4200 pendant lamp

Designed by
Seppo Koho

The backbone of the entire Secto Design collection, the iconic Secto 4200 pendant lamp was born in 1999. A modern classic that represents the vision of the designer which extends to the entire collection: the Secto Design lamps are like lighted spaces seen from outside, resembling cosy houses on a dark evening. The shades are handcrafted in Finland from top-quality local birch and come in four different finishes: untreated natural birch, white or black laminate or in walnut veneer.



Octo 4240 pendant lamp

Designed by
Seppo Koho

The Octo 4240 is a grand yet airy pendant lamp that is already a true classic. This magnificent suspended lamp fits very well in small spaces, due to its lightness. The shades are handcrafted in Finland from top-quality local birch and come in four different finishes: untreated natural birch, white or black laminate or in walnut veneer.



Victo 4250 pendant lamp

Designed by
Seppo Koho

The magnet-like Victo 4250 pendant lamp invites people to come close and gather in its warm and cosy light. It is a perfect choice above a table, due to the wide beam of soft luminosity it provides. The shades are handcrafted in Finland from top-quality local birch and come in four different finishes: untreated natural birch, white or black laminate or in walnut veneer.

Still Life
The Art of Living
Exhibition

Via Alessandro Tadino 2
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RSVP here before 14th April

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Exhibition 18th to 22nd April
10:00 – 19:00

Press Preview 17th April
14:00 – 17:30

Design Conversations 17th April
Moderated by Hanna Nova Beatrice
17:30 – 18:30

Opening Cocktail 17th April
18:30 – 21:00

Design Conversations 19th April
Moderated by Tony Chambers
14:30 – 15:30