





B&B Italia



Flos

►►► Highlights included the new La Mise sofa collection by Luca Nichetto for Cassina and Miloe by Piero Lissoni. They also showcased Nuage, a collection of cupboards and bookshelves designed in the mid-50's by Charlotte Perriand. In a similar vein Nemo Sassina launched a series of 50's light fittings by Le Corbusier.

Tecno held a beautifully staged exhibition called Sculptures in the twin pavilions of the Caselli di Porta Garibaldi. In them they exhibited the classic Nomos range and reissues of the beautiful T90 desk and AT16 coatstand, originally designed by founder Osvaldo Borsani in 1954 and 1961 respectively. Both were shown alongside a

new seating concept called Archipeligo designed by Monica Forster.

Vitra had a large stand at Rho with a series of impressive and imaginative room settings displaying their classics. The most significant new piece presented was Grand Repos lounge chair and ottoman, a collaboration with Antonio Citterio. It is an elegant understated, if safe, design.

One of this year's eagerly anticipated destinations was MOST – a show held at the city's Museo Nazionale della Scienza E della Tecnologia; an amalgam, if you like, of London's science and transport museums. The event, curated by Tom Dixon, was a curious collection of installations by brands

including Dixon's own in a meandering trawl through courtyards, cloisters and lofty exhibition halls filled with ships, trams and aeroplanes.

In amongst the exhibitions by brands as diverse as Soda-Stream and a strange installation by suitcase manufacturer Tumi, was the student exhibition Designersblock and new French label La Chance, formed by architect Louise Breguet and Jean Baptiste-Souletie. They exhibited their Jekyll and Hyde collection of furniture and design pieces by, amongst others, Luca Nichetto, Francois Dumas and Note Design Studio. Each of the pieces was presented in both Jekyll and Hyde personas with ►►►►►►►►



Fritz Hansen



Very Wood



Cassina

▶▶▶ different colourways and finishes. The delicate 'Rhythm of Light' pendant light designed by Dutch designer Suzanne de Graaf is particularly successful.

SCP exhibited in a little corner of England, a temporary structure in the shadow of an Italian submarine. In it they exhibited a variety of new products and a demonstration of their upholstery process. Ineke Hans has designed the Welland chair and table for them this year, and Kay and Stemmer's Cricket range of timber furniture is simple and elegant.

Dezeen reported from the event via a pop-up television studio, broadcasting live interviews with the likes of Zaha Hadid, Dixon, Mark Dytham and Michelle

Ogundehin. The day I visited was quiet but I hope it got busier as the week progressed. It may take a couple of years to find its feet but is a welcome addition to the event.

The Triennale di Milano held a retrospective exhibition of Italian design trio De Pas, D'Urbino e Lomazzi. The partnership, founded in 1966, is responsible for some of the most iconic pieces of Italian design, including the Blow armchair of 1967 for Zanotta and the Joe baseball glove armchair, intended as a tribute to Joe di Maggio, of 1970, originally produced in leather by Poltronova and now made in polymer by US manufacture Heller.

Also showing at the Triennale were Lasvit, the Czech manufacturer of glassware,

chandeliers and artwork. They premiered a new architectural product designed by Ross Lovegrove, called Liquidkrystal. This undulating glass panel system was used to form a curvaceous pavilion, lit using projected digital patterns to reflect and refract light onto a stretched fabric ceiling and across an aluminium floor.

To escape the crowds I took a short train journey to Cantu, home of the artisan metalwork manufacturer Marzorati Ronchetti, a firm celebrating their 90th anniversary in 2012. This family owned firm work with some of the world's most prominent architects, designers and artists on projects ranging from small art pieces to large architectural projects. Anyone familiar▶▶▶▶▶



Cassina



Vitra



SCP



SCP

▶▶▶with the stainless steel staircase in Oxford Street's New Look store, or Bond Street's Marni or Luis Vuitton stores will know their work.

They have worked with Foster and Partners on the British Museum, Ron Arad on the Tel Aviv Opera House, Antonio Citterio on De Beers stores and recently with John Pawson on the Swarovski Crystal Palace Perspectives installation in St Paul's Cathedral. In 2010 they made the Spun chair by Thomas Heatherwick, which sells to collectors through London's Haunch of Venison Gallery in London. The likes of you and I can more easily afford the polyethylene version made by Magis, shown this year in a new range of colours.

Marzorati Ronchetti also recently made the Reverb Wire – another collector's edition chair formed from mirror polished stainless steel rods and designed by London-based Australian designer Brodie Neill. The same designer presented Curve, a bench for Italian manufacturer Riva 1920, digitally carved from sustainably sourced cedar and Clover, and a pendant light by Kundalini.

The biggest party of the week was, without doubt, the celebration of the 50th anniversary of Flos, held at the Palazzo della Permanente – a building damaged in World War II and rebuilt to designs by Achille Castiglioni.

A retrospective show featured well over 100 of the brand's best known pieces and a

large hall featured hundreds of iPads mounted on the Stack D'Eath lamps to launch the new Flos 50 App. The party 'proper' took place in a huge room featuring oversized versions of the classic Arco lamps (recently re-launched using LED lamps). Video projectors showed 'love-letters' from Flos' best known designers, the cocktails flowed and music was provided by British house collective Horse Meat Disco.

The Milan Salone is always well worth a visit. Although I felt numbers were down this year and the weather was terrible, there was still plenty to see and plenty more I wish I had.

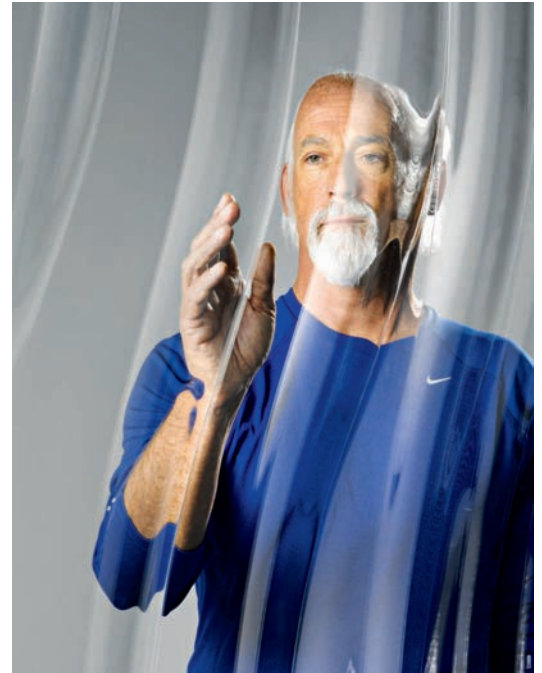
Milan, as Leonard Albert Kravitz might say, Ain't Over Till It's Over. It is now ●



Kundalini



Riva 1920



Lasvit



Marzorati Ronchetti