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Interiors

CHICAGO

INSIDE OUT
THE SUMMER ISSUE



OUTDOOR LIVING WITH ZACHARY A. CULLITON QUINN & MARIANI
DESIGN DESTINATIONS: LOCAL PROS' SECOND-HOME PROJECTS

INSIDE WHEELER KEARNS' LA

MILAN SCOOP FROM SNAIDERO
REALITY CHECK WITH LUKAS MACHIN & KAREN HERGENROTHER

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EPICENTER OF INSPIRATION

The 53rd edition of the Salone Internazionale del Mobile design exhibit, in Milan, Italy (April 8-13), along with the biennial EuroCucina kitchen and bath show, presented products from more than 2,400 participants in the industry. Salone is the annual mecca of modern design, a showcase that dictates the future of home furnishings and decor for decades to come. We ask three top local design gurus to offer insight on their individual experiences at the fair.

By Diana Bitting and Bianca Smith



colored metals, copper and brass—was everywhere. Formafantasma Studio retained their metal elements, but now they are working with basalt and lava too. Scholten & Baijings first started an approach to color that is now everywhere: soft pinks, soft grays. This year they applied their signature geometric features to a collection of crystal glasses for J Hill and a line of unbelievable marble tables.

What new advancements in technology did you witness?

Three-dimensional printing is big. But printed plastic isn't a material that people value yet; it doesn't have the surface qualities of metal, wood or stone, so there's an opportunity there.

Was there anything out of the ordinary that deserves a mention?

At Palazzo Clerici, Dutch designer Belen presented this indigo raincoat from brand 18-11-81 that really struck me. They used this traditional Chinese process, beating the fabric against a stone until it becomes waterproof and takes on this navy color. French company Mustache was cool; they work with young designers to produce these exquisite objects that are also functional, like the Aurora lamp.



Helen Maria Nugent

Hailing all the way from Scotland, Helen Maria Nugent has applied her prestigious Glasgow degree to her current endeavors as the SAIC professor in the architecture and designed objects department, prepping her students to show at the Salone del Mobile since 2007 (their

Whatnot 2014 exhibit earned raves). With an ever-expanding passion for materials and innovative concepts—which has morphed into products, furniture pieces and tabletop accessories she's designed with her studio, Haelo Design (haelodesign.com)—Nugent's recent overseas adventure satisfied that craving completely, and may have inspired a forthcoming body of work as well (more on that next issue!).

Why do you make it a point to attend Salone?

You miss a year and so much changes. It's the quickest

way to really get a sense of not only what established (I loved the East River chair by Hella Jongerius) but younger companies that I'm really interested in as well.

Were there certain things trending?

The trend of warm metals—rose-





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Rama Dandamudi

From buildings like Trump Tower and 2550 N. Lakeview to individual homes, owner and CEO of Snaidero Chicago (snaiderochicago.com) Rama Dandamudi's high-end kitchen and bathroom designs never fail to impress all spectrums of the design industry. After 15 years with the company, Dandamudi doesn't ignore the importance of attending EuroCucina—the international K&B design showcase that coincides with Salone every two years—to ensure that his designers and future projects are current or, better yet, ahead of the game. Even though it's a non-negotiable part of the position, he does enjoy himself. After all, it's Italy! His favorite part of the trip? Spending quality time with colleagues and collaborators.

KITCHEN CONFIDENTIAL
From top left: Snaidero's OLA 25 Ferrari kitchen by car designer Pininfarina was presented this year; one example of radical new hood designs that made their debut: the Lux kitchen by Pietro Arosio's extractor hood, which has bipolar ionization technology that eliminates polluting agents.

Why do you make it a point to attend EuroCucina?

I've gone to the last eight fairs. The entire trade comes, and each company is showing what's new for the collection and what direction they're going in the future. It's good to see the competition and the trends.

Were there certain things trending?

Designs have become cleaner, less ornate. If you look back 10 years ago, we had blues and reds, now it's just more beige and subtler design in general. There's also more

incorporation of the kitchen as part of the great room. It's a trend we've seen in the United States for a while, but in Europe you're seeing it more, so it flows easily from room to room.

What new advancements in technology did you witness?

I saw some hoods that not only just take off the smoke, but will also clean the air; more environmentally friendly options in materials and finishes (all our lacquers are now water-based, not oil) as well. In electronics, we're seeing more integration of iPads.

Was there anything out of the ordinary that deserves a mention?

Not to toot our own horn, but Paolo Pininfarina, who designs for Ferrari, has been designing for Snaidero for about 25 years. So for our 25th anniversary, we launched a line that's only available in a series of 84. Each is numbered and signed by Pininfarina. The finishes are just outrageous—it comes in a sports-car type mode, which is red or black or something more subdued, like white, with a lot of carbon fiber elements. It's very expensive and very limited.

How did the experience influence and/or inspire you and your group?

We're going to be changing a significant portion of the showroom in the next three to four months to reflect what's being shown now. That's why you go; you don't want to make a decision that's out of step with what's happening. It's never-ending, but there's a rhythm, and if you're not a part of that rhythm, you'll be outdated.



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