



TOUCH OF GLASS

PURE DECADENCE

The fairs revealed plenty of evidence that luxury interior design companies are cashing in on the current trend for hedonism, commissioning designers to create new collections that revel in decadence. Perhaps the most impressive is Arik Levy's 'Intangible' range for Baccarat, which includes crystal tumblers, carafes and vases, all exquisitely engraved with delectable patterns. www.baccarat.com



BEST OF TRENDS

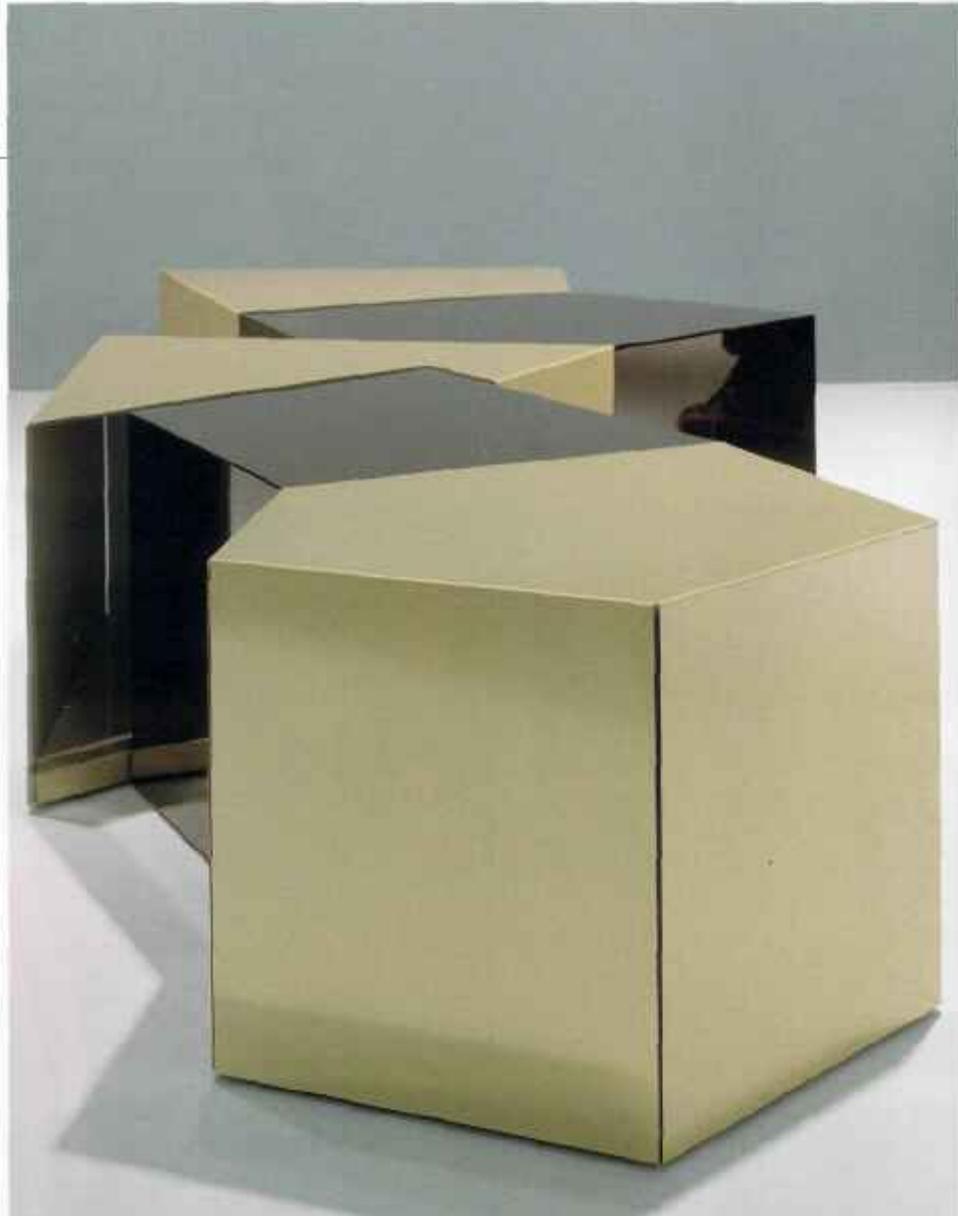
Our annual pilgrimage to Paris - where two distinguished furniture fairs vie for the crowds' attention - is always a good chance to spot upcoming design trends.

This year, despite the Salon du Meuble changing its dates to end the day before the Maison & Objet began (thereby aiding those wanting to cover both), the Maison still seemed the more popular. Crowds flocked to its halls at Villepinte where, among other stalwarts, Ligne Roset, Baccarat and Roche Bobois all showed new collections. The more mellow atmosphere of the Salon's Porte de Versailles site attracted the likes of Domeau & Peres and Sawaya & Moroni, both with new products on their stands, and there was also the unmissable VIA show. Add a dash around the design galleries, which were rammed with inspiration, and we feel sufficiently equipped to predict the hottest trends for the year ahead.



CHILD'S PLAY FUN WITH FURNITURE

It was only a matter of time before the sense of humour ubiquitous in art inched its way into the deluxe furniture industry. While design 'gags' went a little haywire last year, the trend has now matured, with designers playing on childlike behaviour rather than being crazy for the sake of it. For example, 5.5 Designers (W*86) teamed up with French wallpaper union Papier Peint to create 'Wallpaper Games', a series of interactive wallpapers featuring word searches and noughts and crosses. Meanwhile, 'Re-Deco', Jaime Hayon's fantastical first collection for Lladro, was like walking into a fairy wonderland. Hayon, who became the company's art director at the end of last year, has retained the traditional essence of Lladro's classic figurines, but has added a decorative twist, such as with this bear/lamp combo (left). www.ciaaqqdesigners.com www.lladro.com



SHAPE OF THINGS

GEOMETRIC FORMS ARE ANGLING TO STAY

It looks as if last year's love affair with irregular forms in furniture is more than just a passing trend. Franco-Argentinian designer Pablo Reinoso's leather lounger and footstool, 'Jyn et Jon', for Domeau & Peres was made up entirely of polygonal shapes, while French studio Les Dieux vivants showed a series of modular low tables (left) that consisted of seven different geometric forms in black, silver or gold. www.dome3uperes.com, www.iesdieuxvivants.com



WHITE HOT

LACQUER IS BACK

White lacquered metal could be finding its way into the home this year. Christophe Pillet, a designer famous for experimenting with materials and techniques, chose a white metal mesh for his new chairs for Emu (above), while Philippe Nigro showed his modular 'Caisson de Rangement' storage system made of bent steel and coated in white.

www.jimu.it

WICKER WORLD

THE RETURN OF RATTAN

Rattan is having a revival, although, thankfully, the 1970s hippy look has been given some sleek rethinking. Gervasoni's white rattan collection, which has included sofas and coffee tables, this year added a bar stool and a table (left). Equally sleek was a coffee table at Baltus, while Ligne Roset introduced the 'Tess' chair by Thibault Desombre in white, black and natural tones.

www.gervasoni1882.it, www.baltuscollection.com,
www.ligne-roset.co.uk

