



Silver as a Language

From Afra and Tobia Scarpa to Naoko Shintani. San Lorenzo. Design as a vision, for over fifty years.

At Milano Design Week 2026, the historic Milanese silversmith presents a new project curated by Naoko Shintani, hosted within the spaces of Paola Lenti Milano. Long engaged in dialogue with leading figures of Italian and international design, San Lorenzo continues its exploration of silver as both material and medium.

The exhibition unfolds across two complementary dimensions—narrative and display—guiding visitors through images, words, iconic works, and forward-looking designs. It traces the evolving applications of silver, from jewelry to tableware and domestic objects, from a special golf putter to pure silver cookware designed by Tobia Scarpa and protected by an international patent.

At the core of San Lorenzo's vision lies a dynamic balance between design and process, craftsmanship and innovation. The exceptional qualities of silver—its luminous, almost lunar character—are explored through both traditional and experimental techniques, revealing new possibilities and unexpected fields of application.

“Designing for San Lorenzo means not only standing side by side with a rich pantheon of great designers, but above all creating art with a silversmith who profoundly and passionately recognizes and exalts the essence and nobility of silver” — Massimo Vignelli

Featuring works by Afra and Tobia Scarpa, Tobia Scarpa, Lella and Massimo Vignelli, Franco Albini and Franca Helg, Antonio Piva, Afra Bianchin Scarpa, Lella Valle Vignelli, Matali Crasset, Patricia Urquiola, and Naoko Shintani.

Exhibition design Naoko Shintani

Light design Francesco Murano

Graphic design Orsola De Fiori



San Lorenzo

San Lorenzo

An historic Italian brand, San Lorenzo was founded in Milan in 1970 with the aim of renewing the expressive language of silver through the principles of design. The insight and vision of using silver as a medium to express contemporary culture, as a reflection of its time, marked a significant turning point in both the Italian and international silverware landscape.

Since its inception, San Lorenzo has distinguished itself through innovative projects applied to a wide range of silversmithing techniques, particularly that of pure silver, developed in collaboration with masters of Italian design such as Afra and Tobia Scarpa, Lella and Massimo Vignelli, Franco Albini and Franca Helg, Maria Luisa Belgiojoso, and Antonio Piva.

San Lorenzo's production spans three main areas: tableware and home objects, jewelry, and kitchen utensils plus a special golf putter. The excellence of its work has been recognized by leading international institutions, notably the Museum of Modern Art, New York in 1999, the Triennale di Milano in 2003, and the Victoria & Albert Museum in London, which hosted a monographic exhibition dedicated to San Lorenzo in 1995.

Numerous San Lorenzo pieces are part of the permanent collections of major museums worldwide, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago, the Triennale di Milano, the Denver Art Museum, the Carnegie Museum of Art in Pittsburgh, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, the Musée des Arts Décoratifs in Bordeaux, the Fonds National d'Art Contemporain in Puteaux, the MAK – Austrian Museum of Applied Arts in Vienna, and Die Neue Sammlung – The Design Museum in Munich.

Milano Design Week 2026

Within the exhibition area of Paola Lenti Milano

Via Giovanni Bovio 28, Milano

Opening Hours:

Press Preview

19 aprile

h 10 - 18

20 aprile

h 15 - 19

21/ 25 aprile

h 10 - 21

26 aprile

h 10 - 19

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