

The Salone Del Mobile Milan 2014 Edit

Est contributors, Robyn Lea and Marina Cukeric, approached this years Salone Del Mobile Milan on a mission to unearth the inner gems hiding off the well beaten, over crowded path.

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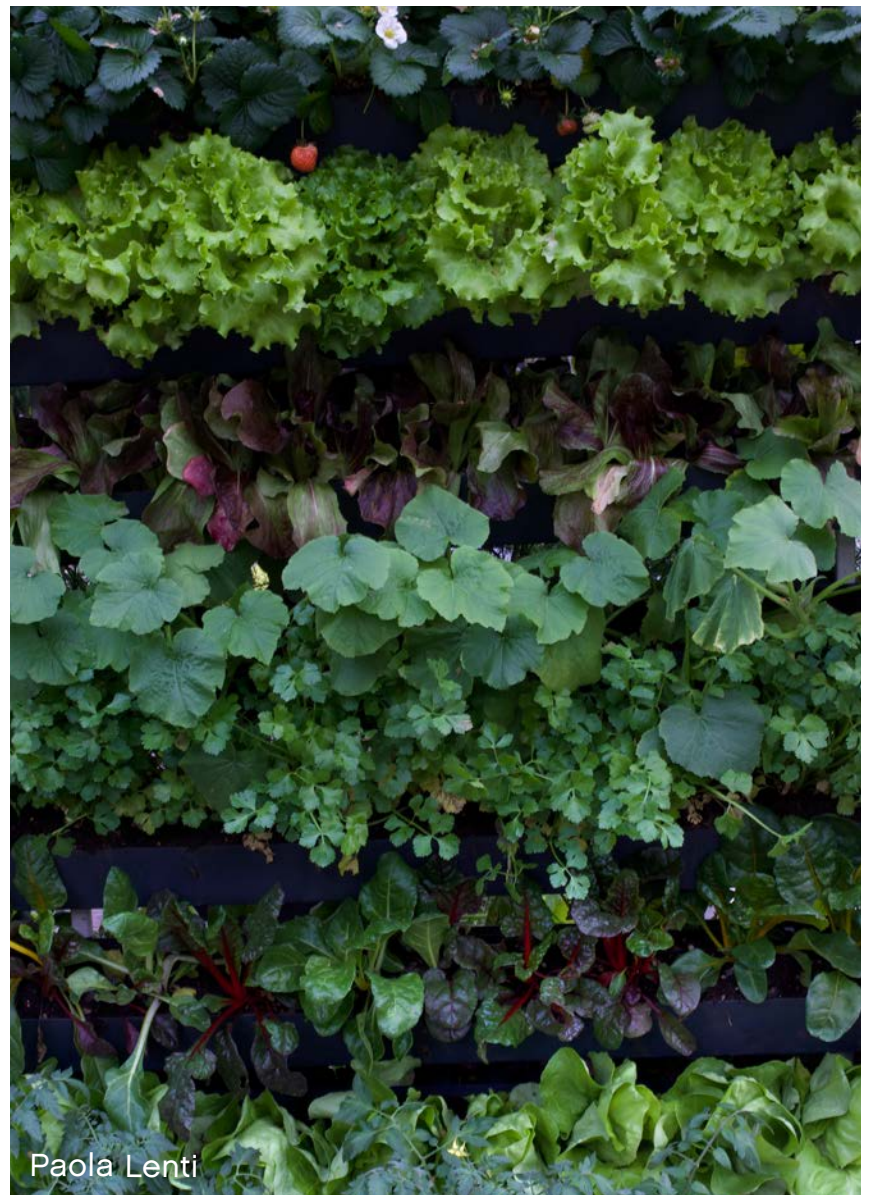
Continuing the trend of the last five years, Milan's Furniture Fair 2014 was often the most inspiring away from the main exhibition centre in Rho Fiera on the north-western outskirts of the city. So instead of consuming days at 'La Fiera' negotiating the vast, unwieldy beast of the official program we preferred exploring the areas collectively known as the Fuorisalone where many of the jewels were found. The Fuorisalone encompasses select streets in seven different neighborhoods including the Brera, 'Zona Tortona', Porta Venezia, the Santa Marta district, Ventura Lambrate, Sarpi Bridge and the newest area known as '5vie Art+Design' around Sant'Ambrogio.

Milan's trio of female 'super-creatives' Gisella Borioli, Rosanna Orlandi and Carla Sozzani still host some of the most interesting events in the Fuorisalone calendar. Ms. Borioli, former Italian Vogue editor-turned-curator gave birth to 'Zona Tortona' from her base at Superstudio Più. There she curates a Fuorisalone program of quality and innovation. She also works with the local government to ensure the work of talented young folks is exhibited at the converted factory complex across the road known as the 'Ex-Ansaldo.'

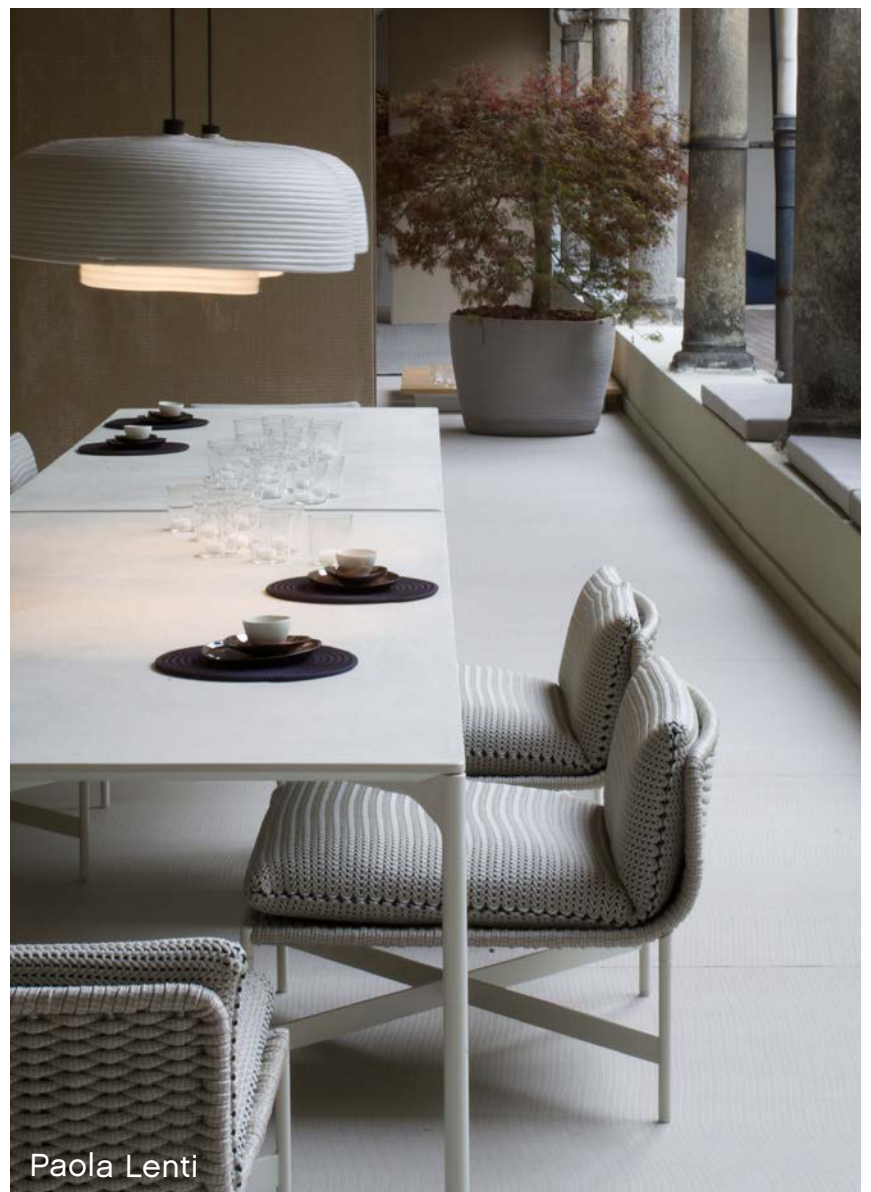
Here is a Prada clutch worth of highlights from this year's fair.

PAOLA LENTI

Queen of colour and shape, Paola Lenti chose to create a multi-space furniture installation for the Fuorisalone at the Chiostri Dell'umanitaria, a 15th Century Franciscan monastery. Restoration of the historic location was commenced prior to the event by Lenti's team and still continues. Four Renaissance courtyards and a selection of monastic interiors were decorated with Lenti's furniture. Her ability to meld her designs to the natural beauty of the surrounding gardens created a feeling of calm and welcome respite from the chaos of the rest of the city. Her love of colour began as a child: 'I was very, very young, maybe 5 years old, when I received as a gift an album of collage coloured paper. The first pieces I cut were dark orange and dark turquoise, colours that I still like today ... each time I start selecting colours for a collection I recall the image of myself cutting those pieces.'



Paola Lenti



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