

Home Interiors

AGENDA

KATRINA BURROUGHS

@Kat_Burroughs



One of the most influential trends at Milan design week (see page 28) was guilt – remorse about the materials and energy the industry consumes in manufacture, the unsatisfactory amount recycled at the end of a product's life, the proliferation of plastics. It wasn't all hair-tearing; there were many constructive suggestions.

A fascinating exhibition called Mutant Matter identified waste as a design issue and illustrated how it could be used as a resource. Another show, by a vegan, asked how design might be compatible with environmental and animal welfare. This new scrutiny of every stage of the design process, often by the younger element, is uncomfortable but overdue. We consider similar issues every time we shop for dinner, from air miles to free-range foods. By the time these emerging designers rule the interiors world, it will be routine to opt for an ethical kitchen table, too.

And, just like that, it's salad time again. As a matter of urgency, we need snazzy bowls and new servers. While I love a showy salad bowl, an ornate server is a step too far in my book. And those tiny servers in the shape of chubby hands are simply freaky, so let me recommend three of my favourites.



Above left is the good-value basic: a bamboo set from House by John Lewis (£8; johnlewis.com). For a bit of glitz, try Broste Copenhagen's Tvis servers, left, in stainless steel with a rose metal finish (£47; amara.com). Best of all, though, are handsome ox-horn servers from Abbeyhorn, a two-centuries-old specialist maker based in the Lake District (£46; davidmellordesign.com). Though possibly not ideal for vegans.

A space-saving sleeper with a built-in desk and bookcase, the Fargo High Sleeper bed frame promises to last into your child's early teens. It may look a daunting DIY job, but a video on the Little Folks Furniture website demonstrates that assembly is child's play. The price does not include a mattress (£175 for an open coil or £230 for pocket-sprung) or the ladderback chair in the picture (£140). £895; littlefolksfurniture.co.uk



Toast has unveiled a high-summer bedding collection of cosy velvet quilts and cushions that reminds me the label was founded in west Wales. The sunflower-coloured velvets, backed with natural linen, layer beautifully with plain washed cotton and linen, or organic cotton ticking-stripe pillow cases and sheets. There are knitted blankets, too – just in case. Cushion cover £50, quilt £225; toast.st



THE NEW



The Cocci side table is an outdoor piece from Paola Lenti, a brand based in Italy's furniture district, near Milan. Created by the Sicilian fashion designer Marella Ferrera, it has a black stainless steel frame and a tabletop with faience tiles. £2,760; chaplins.co.uk

The word on the seat

Did you know that 27% of all sofas sold in the UK are DFS? The 50-year-old brand, which used to be regarded as good for old-fashioned basics (beige recliner, anyone?), has been moving into the contemporary design market for the past five years, with an outstanding

collaboration with French Connection that has attracted more style-savvy customers. Here's the latest launch in the DFS x FC range, a groovy 1970s-style couch on metal legs called the Hackney. Styled here with French Connection's Parquet coffee table (£385),

Industrial timber shelving (£465), Golden wool rug (on the wall; £250) and Tubular floor lamp (£225; all frenchconnection.com), the tan leather three-seater is also available in black, brown and conker colourways. **£1,499; dfs.co.uk**