TRENDS presents a selection of products where design blurs the lines between art and functionality

I see you

"Why don't we love our sofas like our handbags? Why is it so difficult to buy one? And why do we buy one sofa to last the best part of a lifetime?" It was these three ponderings that led Marcel Wanders to design the **Boutique Eyes Of Strangers sofa** for Moooi. Created, conceived and designed as a timeless piece of furniture, the sofa contours, dimensions and comfort make it highly user-friendly. With its unique artistic edge and specially designed fabrics and patterns, the Boutique sofa is a sure shot solution to add a dramatic edge to any room. For more, visit www.moooi.com

Boxed perfection

The **A2 Series** by New York-based The Miles & May design is a range of cabinets that reflects the exploration of material and function driven design. Handcrafted using traditional and modern methods, the series highlights the inherent qualities of each material. Using a graphic layout, the A2 unmasks the grain structure of walnut by obscuring its signature color. For more, visit www.milesandmay.com

Love is in the air

In an attempt to reinterpret love and romance, Marcel Wanders designed the **Love sofa** for Moooi. The sofa features a metal frame covered in molded foam and accented with ash wood legs. The bright orange upholstery against the light hued frame gives it a dramatic appeal. The cosy, soft and rounded shapes are available in several textile options, including Wanders' tailor made signature textile 'Plush', made from a soft, luxurious synthetic fur.

Two peas in a pod

With **Twins**, MUT Design aims to bring in warmth in one's spaces. Designed by Alberto Sánchez, it come in two different finishes, Batyline Senso® (taupe or black) and 3D Mesh (a tridimensional polyester fabric made exclusively for Expormim, also in taupe, black and a dreamy turquoise). The temperance in their proportions and the thoroughness in their design makes them flexible while balance, sobriety and elegance are the key elements that guided the whole creative process.

Curved cities

Inspired by the 2010 film Inception, Cyprus-based designer Stelios Mousarris has created the **Wave City coffee table**. Reflecting use of a mixed wood, steel and 3D printed technology, this coffee table is a limited edition piece. Mousarris has managed to 'bend' the cityscape, within the curves of the table that make it look extraordinary. For more, visit www.mousarris.com

Lines and angles

Alpina is a new furniture collection with slender lines and angular geometry that seeks to relate to the spaces it occupies not as volumes, but rather as a set of vectors and planes in the air. Designed by Argentinean architecture studio Ries, Alpina is a collection of minimal furniture based around simple steel frames and comprises of a table, a chair, a desk, and a multi-purpose shelf. For more, visit www.ries.com.ar
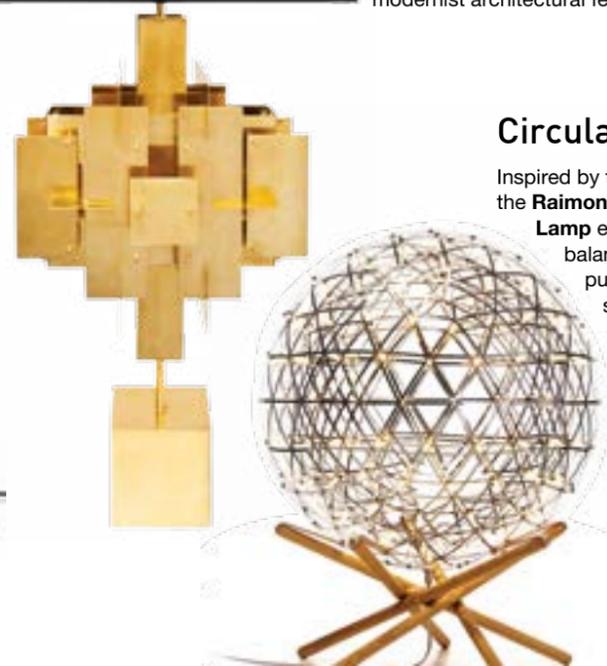
Stand and rest

Atelier Van Lieshout has designed the unique **Statistocrat Floor Lamp** for Moooi. The floor lamp's lean aluminum body is multifunctional with its all-embracing, towering, two meter light beams; the tallest shade projecting light towards the ceiling while the wider shade acts as the perfect reading lamp. And what about the two other shades? The lowest is no shade but a surprisingly useful side table. Perfect to support a laptop or your favorite drink, it's sure to grab all the attention.

Piece by piece

Giving a traditional lamp a modern twist, the **Puzzle Table Lamp** comes across as a strong and bold accessory. Inspired by a house of cards, it is made of sheets of solid brass layered in a dynamic composition and is topped with a moody matter black shade. The luminous metal accentuates its modernist architectural feel.

Circular effects

Inspired by the tensegrity principle, the **Raimond Tensegrity Floor Lamp** embodies a perfect balance between push and pull forces. A giant LED sphere hovers above an aerial wood stand with ethereal grace. Designed by Raimond Puts, it is a sphere created from a series of triangular shapes. The transparent lenses are specially detailed to spread warm white light.

For that striking appeal

Chic Chinoiserie meets Park Avenue Flair. Small in stature but not in presence, the **Turner Pagoda Side Table** is an ideal companion for your reading chair or bedside. The signature honeycomb hardware in gleaming polished brass and Ming-inspired capped feet add a lustrous edge to the otherwise bold frame. This storage solution is wire-brushed to draw out the natural grain of the wood and ebonized with a black satin matte finish. For more, visit www.jonathanadler.com

It's all in the table

Designed by Italian designer Andrea Ponti, **Kanban** is a side table that pushes the boundaries of form and aesthetic, past and present. The aim of the design was to capture Hong Kong in a product: to convey the spirit of a cosmopolitan metropolis that is at the crossroads between East and West. The concept was reinvented starting from the essential components of base and top and an innovative use of materials, shape, color and layout. The use of steel and concrete mirrors the style of Hong Kong's historic industrial buildings - former multistorey factories converted into offices and warehouses. The neon signs that light up the streets of Kowloon inspired the shape.

A new lease

First created in 1966 by designer Warren Platner, the **Platner Collection** aimed to capture the decorative, gentle, graceful shapes that were beginning to infiltrate the modern vocabulary in that time. The pieces are created by welding hundreds of curved, nickel-plated steel rods to circular frames, simultaneously serving as structure and ornament. Requiring as many as 1000 welds and crafted out of wire and space, the dining table demonstrates Platner's belief that there is room in modernism. Constructed of metal components that are finished in bright nickel with a clear lacquer protective coating, the table features a clear plastic extrusion ring surrounding the base to protect floors and ensure a level tabletop. The Platner Collection is manufactured by Knoll.

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For that perfect tea

Commissioned by Georg Jensen to create a tea service in sterling silver, the **Newson tea service** is a limited edition of 10, stamped with Marc Newson's initials, MN. The range comprises of five pieces- teapot, coffee pot, creamer, sugar bowl and tray. For more, visit www.marc-newson.com

Guided waters

Who said basins had to be ceramic, glass or steel? Designed by Julia Kononenko of Kononenko Industrial Design, **Water Map** is a wooden basin where the water flows through the ducts resembling the river channels. This wooden three-dimensional basin represents the streets of central part of London. The same technique can be applied to other maps as well, but Julia chose England because it was the site of the world's first industrial production, in the 18th century.
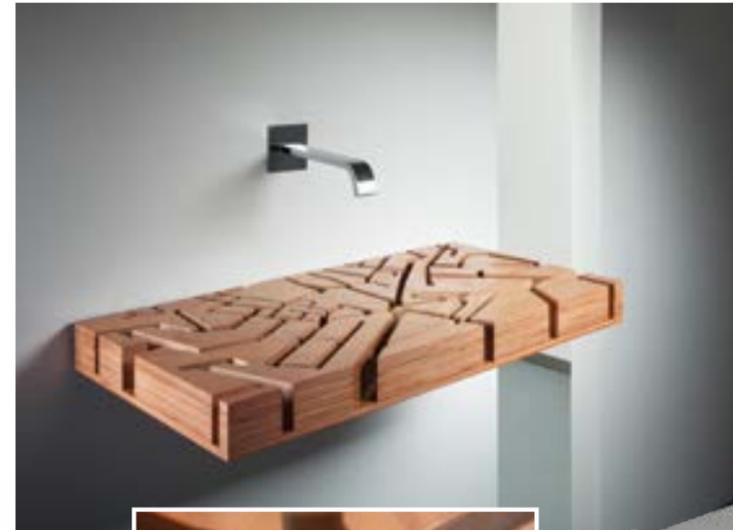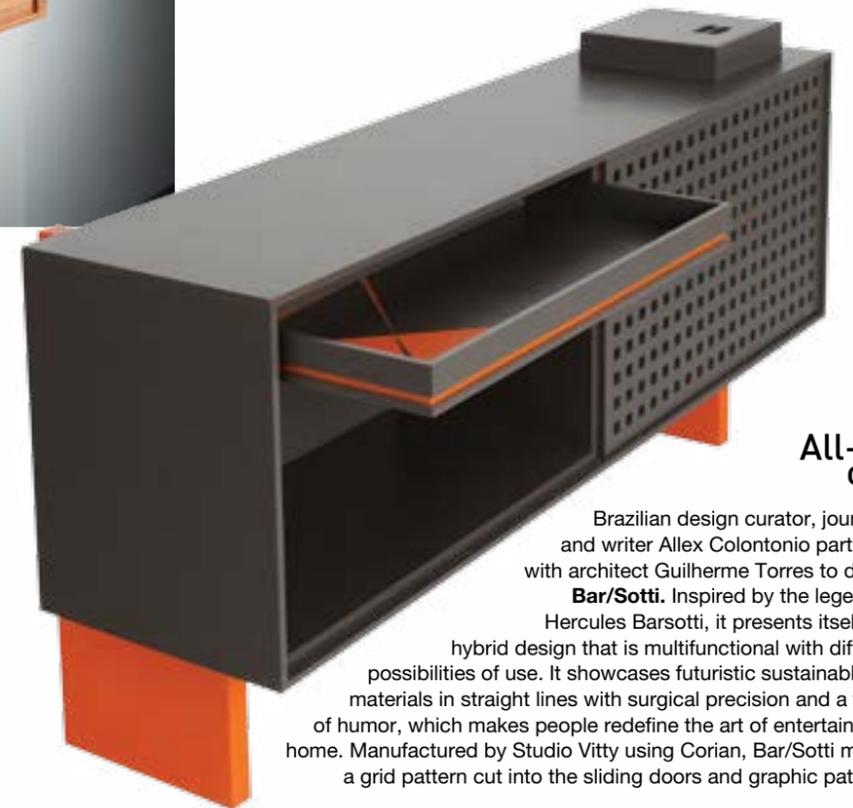
IVAN AVDEENKO

Under the sea

This collection is inspired by objects that have been left exposed to incrustation from the sea. Named **Lost at the Sea**, the barnacles that adorn this table were taken from original specimens of the Balanus Poreatus barnacle; collected in 1921 for the Natural History Museum, London. Their form has been 3D scanned, edited and then cast to produce a variety of shapes and sizes. This console, designed by -, has six drawers with metallic gold interior faces and is opened and closed with push catches.

All-in-one

Brazilian design curator, journalist and writer Allex Colontonio partnered with architect Guilherme Torres to design **Bar/Sotti.** Inspired by the legendary Hercules Barsotti, it presents itself as a hybrid design that is multifunctional with different possibilities of use. It showcases futuristic sustainable raw materials in straight lines with surgical precision and a touch of humor, which makes people redefine the art of entertaining at home. Manufactured by Studio Vitty using Corian, Bar/Sotti mirrors a grid pattern cut into the sliding doors and graphic patterns.