

Back on form

Global

The 20 events, items and innovative makers that are shaping the design world as it regains its momentum.

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In September, festivals and exhibitions from Milan to Copenhagen and Basel opened their doors to brands, buyers and the world's media as the industry's most interesting companies showcased their newest wares. Here, our design directory introduces the most exciting furniture releases, Europe's most talked-about fairs and the exceptional cast of talent moving this robust industry forwards. — M



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I. Real deal

Design Miami, Basel

After a two-year break because of the pandemic, gallerists were once again showing off their wares in September at Design Miami's Basel edition. This year's event, by curatorial director Aric Chen, brought together galleries from around the world, from AGO Projects in Mexico City to Objective Gallery in Shanghai. As ever, it was a mix of old and new, spanning sought-after mid-century furniture and contemporary pieces, while featuring young talent such as New York-based Russian designer Harry Nuriev alongside gallerists who have been in the field for decades.

Excitement at the event was palpable as new connections were made and old ones revived. Despite the launch of a new online sales platform by Design Miami that enables collectors to buy pieces remotely, gallerists agreed that there's no substitute for the real-life event. "It's very important for our community to be able to get together and exchange ideas and knowledge," says Jennifer Roberts, CEO of Design Miami. "There is a sense of generosity and kindness here, even though the stakes are still high for many of the exhibitors present."

Many of the booths were designed as self-contained rooms, rather than displays of individual pieces. "We wanted ours to look like a space where we would love to live ourselves," says Amaryllis Jacobs, co-founder of Maniera gallery in Brussels. "In times like these, interiors are very important."

Anticipating the new Design Miami Podium × Shanghai 2021 event in November as well as the fair's return to Miami Beach in December, the Design Miami team is moving forwards with optimism and a sense of mission. "There's a schism in the design world between the need to escape and an awareness of environmental and social issues," says Wava Carpenter, who will soon take over from Chen as curatorial director. "I intend to address these parallel tracks in my new role." — ABC

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1. Furniture presented by Laffanour Galerie Downtown
2. Amaryllis Jacobs, co-founder, Maniera gallery
3. Maria Bruun furniture
4. Baskets in booth
5. Collectable items
6. Booth interior
7. Contemporary designs presented by Maniera