

best of

DESIGN MIAMI PARIS 2024: A TRIBUTE TO MODERNISM AND CONTEMPORARY MATERIAL CULTURE

Unfolding across a series of romantic rooms, a heterogeneous showcase of handpicked objects and furnishings from 24 of the most influential design galleries in the world

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IVAN EROFEEV

It wasn't unusual to see the familiar faces of Natalie Portman, Queen Rania of Jordan or Mika among those at the grand preview of the **Design Miami Paris** fair. After all, the event proved to be the most elegant and dazzling of **Paris Art Week**, dedicated to international creativity, which was held for the second year in Karl Lagerfeld's majestic 18th-century palace, the **Hôtel de Maisons** on rue de l'Université. In a succession of rooms with a romantic flair, a heterogeneous yet fluid showcase of objects and furniture unfurled between a handpicked group of **24 of the most influential design galleries in the world**. From the big names of Modernism to the contemporary, the innovative materials, different cultures and excellent craftsmanship, we discovered ornamental objects, sculptures and conceptual design.



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Design Miami.Paris 2024

Design Miami Paris: The legacy of Modernism

This year's Design Miami Paris fair pays a heartfelt homage to the legacy of French Modernism, highlighting its enduring influence in 20th century collectible design. In particular, **Galerie Patrick Seguin** (Paris) offers an extraordinary selection of works by the great masters, including Jean Prouvé and his most famous chairs, Le Corbusier from whom everything took shape, and Jean Royère. From there, **Galerie Downtown-Laffanour** (Paris) directed a dialogue between modernist masterpieces and contemporary creations with the works of Charlotte Perriand and Serge Mouille juxtaposed alongside visionaries like Ron Arad and Choi Byung Hoon. Among the most iconic objects there was Françoise-Xavier Lalanne's marble and iron table, accompanied by matching seats. By contrast, the legacy of European ceramists was celebrated by **Lebreton Gallery (Monaco)**, where, among the pieces dotting a large snow-white table, we found Derval's *Pichet Anthropomorphe*, an enameled vase depicting an abstract face from 1950. Milan-based **Galleria Rossella Colombari** paid homage to 20th-century Italian design, focusing on Carlo Mollino, who inspired the design of *Uno Studio di Interni Molliniano*. There, pieces by Gio Ponti, including a multifunctional wooden cabinet with ceramic handles and fabric upholstery from 1956, flanked the armchairs with sinusoidal shells by Osvaldo Borsani and a white mirror cabinet made in three pieces by Ettore Sottsass during the '60s.



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Carnac House by Jean Prouvé for Galerie Downtown-LAFFANOUR at Design Miami.Paris 2024

Design Miami Paris - Marvelous Materials

This year's program also explored innovative and unexpected materials by showcasing the bold and bright. **LaGalerie Desprez-Bréhéret** (Paris) and **Galerie Yves Gastou** (Paris), winners of Best in Show, presented a combination of Jean Touret's tables, desks and chairs, hammered-wood Povera-style creations made in the mid-1950s that merge with Agnès Debizet's sculptures — a synthesis of ceramic and terracotta. **Galerie Kreo** (Paris), on the other hand, presented the TOWER HILLS chair designed by the late Virgil Abloh. Made of bronze, the chair is inspired by street life in a combination of rounded and angular forms combined with the monumentality of the material. To welcome us on the upper floor, **Fornasetti**, a Milanese decorative arts atelier conceived by Pietro Fornasetti in the 1940s, unveiled two refined trumeaus: one in root wood featuring illustrations of architectural perspectives made in collaboration with Giò Ponti, and another unique piece made entirely of Murano glass and mirror, whose components were expertly engraved by the historic Barbini workshop. Finally, for this section, **Galerie Maxime Flatry** (Paris) explored different shades of lacquer with designs by Katsu Hamanaka, including a tripod pedestal table with a shell motif from 1935 and Jean Dunand's extraordinary textured lacquered wood, copper and silver bed from the 1920s. Celebrating excellence in craftsmanship, **Friedman Benda** (New York/LA) returned to Paris with an ensemble of international figures including Raphael Navot and the *Encompass* sofa, Joris Laarman and the wooden *Ply Loop* chair, and a rare, early pendant lamp by Ettore Sottsass.



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Louis Vuitton presents Campana Brothers

From **Galerie Mitterrand** (Paris) came the timeless creations of the creative couple formed by Claude Lallanne and François-Xavier Lallanne, whose naturalistic flair and unusual designs lead us to the sculptural imagery of cheerful little monkeys or cats curled up in a basket. Leaning towards a rationalist formula, Milan's very own **Nilufar Gallery** (Milan) combined vintage rarities with contemporary gems by juxtaposing seats from Gino Montalcini or Giuseppe Pagano with a purple, floating ceiling lamp by Christian Pelizzari. For Design at Large, design is elevated to a more contemplative realm, grouping sculptures made by major international designers. In both the indoor and outdoor spaces of the **Hotel de Maisons**, we found Wendell Castle's bronzes; *Never Grow Old* (2014) and *Fallen and Risen* (2016); Alessandro Mendini's *White Gold*, a classic armchair covered in gold mosaic tiles; *Vase of Humanity* by Roham Shamekh, an explosion of vegetation cloaking ceramic; and a reflection on the representation of the female body and its symbolism for *Les Trois Grâces* by Jean Touret, designed for the Abbey of Saint-Michel Michel en Thiérache (Aisne).

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