

AZURE

DESIGN | ARCHITECTURE | INTERIORS | CURIOSITY

AZUREMAGAZINE.COM

NEW SOUND BARRIERS

Acoustic panels with style P. 42

MASSIMILIANO FUKSAS

Q+A with the Italian legend P. 39

MILAN DESIGN WEEK

Highlights from the fair P. 114

SPOTLIGHT ON KITCHENS

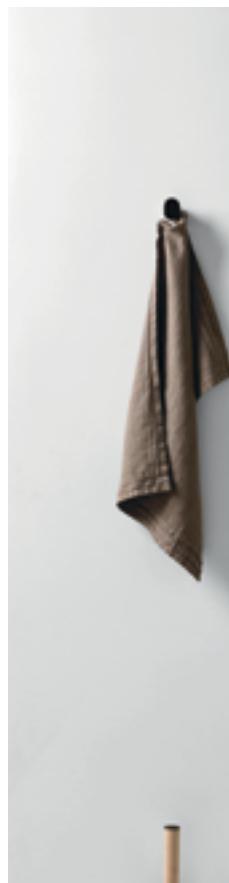
Bring on the urban farm P. 51



2017
AZ
AWARDS

THE VERY
BEST IN...
**ARCHITECTURE.
DESIGN.
INTERIORS.
CONCEPTS.
SOCIAL GOOD.
ENVIRONMENTAL
LEADERSHIP.
A+ STUDENT.**

WINNER OF
**PEOPLE'S
CHOICE**



31





34

4,909

PROJECTS HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED TO THE AZ AWARDS SINCE ITS INAUGURATION



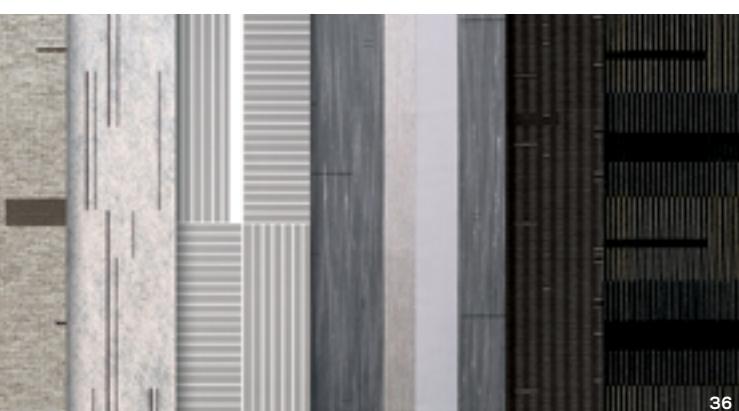
35

FURNITURE DESIGN

29 LESSTHANFIVE CHAIR

When Coalesse commissioned U.K.-born designer Michael Young to create a stackable chair made entirely from carbon fibre, its objective was not a gallery piece, but something much more difficult: an industrialized solution suitable for mass production. Consulting experts skilled at working carbon fibre into bicycle frames, Young devised a chair able to support 136 kilograms, yet weighing less than 2.3 kilograms (or five pounds, hence the name). With its elongated legs and sweeping back, LessThanFive is a striking example of technology and craftsmanship merging in perfect harmony. **Designer:** Michael Young, China **Manufacturer:** Coalesse Design Group, U.S.

30 WHORL TABLE Designers and architects typically use concrete to evoke a rugged gravitas, as opposed to lightness or elegance. But with the Whorl table, Neal Aronowitz Design of Portland, Oregon, has combined all of the above qualities in a gestural wave, freezing soft curves in a rock-hard material. To make the table, the fabricators roll a wet sheet of concrete canvas over a five-piece plywood mould, which they remove just before the material hardens. The result is a thin tabletop with a sinuous, undulating base, coated in pigmented cement and polished until smooth. Despite its heavy-duty material, Whorl weighs a mere 68 kilograms. **Designer:** Neal Aronowitz, U.S.



36

31 SIGN FILO MDF Italia introduced the Sign chair – a sweeping loop of polyamide – in 2006, to wide acclaim. For the chair's 10th anniversary, the manufacturer asked the designer to revisit his original form, but update it with luxury-inspired materials. Piergiorgio Cazzaniga turned to the art of filigree, a jewellery-making technique in which strands of metal are configured and then soldered together. Each reimaged Sign Filo chair is hand-worked from 45 metres of galvanized steel wire. Finished in glossy black, gold or rose gold, Sign Filo's birdcage-like form evokes a Victorian opulence, but its streamlined profile is stunningly contemporary.

Designer: Piergiorgio Cazzaniga, Italy

Manufacturer: MDF Italia, Italy

32 ARMCHAIR YORI Estúdio Ronald Sasson's sleek Armchair Yori is many things at once. Its seat back is high and rounded in the style of the classic barrel chair, while its prominent, skeletal frame is best viewed from behind, the better to appreciate the slimness of the supporting structure. Most striking is the way the frame's unique materials – thin steel bands lined with wood laminate – come together to generate striking juxtapositions: industrial-grey steel against tactile natural wood, and clean modernist shapes paired with the sinuous lines characteristic of furnishings from the designer's native Brazil. **Designer:** Ronald Sasson, Brazil

INTERIOR PRODUCTS

35 DOT LINE García Cumini's Dot Line collection for Agape makes for a straightforward visual: a range of bathroom hardware – from hooks to towel bars to shelves – fashioned from wood-sheathed aluminum tubing in a variety of finishes. The longest of these bars, designed to run the length of a bathroom wall, incorporates a range of accessories, including Cristalplant soap trays and toothbrush holders, and aluminum S-hooks for hand towels. The black-finished capped brackets punctuate the continuity of the horizontal rails they support, evoking notes on a musical staff or strings of Morse code. Whatever they're saying, they make a bold statement.

Designer: García Cumini, Italy

Manufacturer: Agape, Italy

LIGHTING INSTALLATIONS

33 SWARM STUDY / IX

In Chemnitz, Germany, commuters of different feathers flock together beneath the pixels of the giant LED facade that crowns two sides of the city's recently renovated train station. The largest interactive artwork from Berlin's Lichtvision to date, completed in collaboration with London's Random International, Swarm Study / IX translates the movements of nearby pedestrians and vehicles into pixelated heat maps that mimic the ebb and flow of migrating birds. Each five-centimetre-wide pixel has a luminous flux of 40 lumens; combined into a four-storey backlit display powered by specialized software that generates cues in real time, the pixels create ethereal, ever-shifting masses of light and dark. **Location:** Chemnitz, Germany **Studios:** Lichtvision Design (Germany) and Random International (U.K.) **Designer:** Raoul Hesse

34 PARTICLE ACCELERATOR

Particle Accelerator is not your average bedside lamp. It sits atop a 2.5-metre table, powered by two industrial black powder-coated boxes; the shorter one contains the electrical transformer, and the taller

one encloses a vacuum system. A black marble base supports the final component: a hand-blown glass vacuum tube under a curving metal shade. At one end of the airtight tube, electrodes transmit a current through the vessel. In a demonstration of the Heisenberg uncertainty principle, a column of luminous plasma ripples along the length of the glass tube, dramatically changing from pinkish-purple to white before dying out. **Studio:** Castor Design, Canada **Designers:** Kei Ng and Brian Richer with Nathan Watson

36 WOLF-GORDON + MAE ENGELGEER Textiles are Amsterdam-based designer Mae Engelgeer's first love. With this patterned collection for Wolf-Gordon, Engelgeer shows off her unusual flair for balanced geometric compositions, drawing inspiration from the pure abstraction and reductionist approach to colour characteristic of the century-old De Stijl movement. The weaves in the Wolf-Gordon + Mae Engelgeer collection range from the subtly textured nubs of polyester Mesh, to the sophisticated pin-stripes of cotton-blend Melody, to the rows of delicate dashes adorning nylon-blend Ritual. All six patterns are rendered in a rich tapestry of colourways comprising subtle neutrals, chalky greys and deep jewel tones. **Designer:** Mae Engelgeer with Morgan Bajardi, Michael Loughlin and Marybeth Shaw **Manufacturer:** Wolf-Gordon, U.S.