


# The Telegraph Magazine

6 April 2019

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# GUTTED



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# What's hot in homes

Eco-living, next-level wall art and the return of lino – Jessica Doyle rounds up the key trends at Milan's Salone del Mobile

**Right** New furniture, including the Fat chair, and lighting collections on Tom Dixon's launchpad

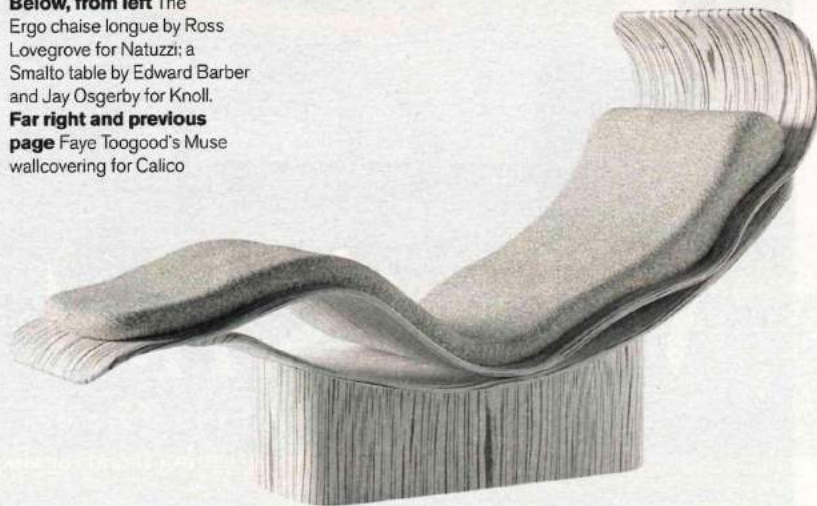


THE MOST IMPORTANT event in the design calendar kicks off on Tuesday, when the Milan Furniture Fair takes over the city. This is where the world's biggest brands and most well-known designers launch the products they have been developing over the past 12 months; and several British names are among those leading the charge.

Tom Dixon took a break from Milan last year to focus on The Coal Office, his shopping, dining and working space at Coal Drops Yard, the transformed former industrial space in King's Cross, London, which opened in October. That experience partly inspired his decision to do something different in Milan this year. Rather than staging a temporary installation to showcase new products, he is launching a restaurant

**Below, from left** The Ergo chaise longue by Ross Lovegrove for Natuzzi; a Smalto table by Edward Barber and Jay Osgerby for Knoll.

**Far right and previous page** Faye Toogood's Muse wallcovering for Calico





and showroom, The Manzoni, which will remain a permanent fixture once the fair has finished.

The issue of sustainability – a hot topic in interiors – has informed his choice: ‘In the past, we’ve spent so much energy and cash on a five-day carnival, which doesn’t feel right at the moment; so much is wasted,’ he says. A place where people stop to eat is also the perfect spot to showcase his new offerings: two lighting collections, and a range of dining chairs and bar stools called Fat, with a comfortable design incorporating high, plump backrests to hug the body.

Dixon’s designs might have been conceived for restaurants, but his instinct for nailing down the way people are living now – and the products they might need – makes them easily transferable to a home environment. The compact footprint of the Fat chair means it will work in today’s smaller homes, and it comes in three different heights: just as appropriate for an open-plan kitchen/dining room as for a restaurant.

Sustainability has been the focus for another British designer, Ross Lovegrove, who has teamed up with the Italian brand Natuzzi on a collection comprising all that one might need to furnish a bedroom: a bed, chaise longue, chandelier, valet stand, lamp, carpet and mirror. Named Ergo, it is inspired by organic design and the relationship between materials and

function. Lovegrove has paid careful attention to what he calls ‘each micro-element of the collection’, in order to make it as ecological and sustainable as possible. The pieces come in fluid, curvy shapes and are

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made from responsibly sourced and renewable materials, including recyclable metals, wood from sustainably managed forests, organic fibres and solvent-free glue.

Faye Toogood, who has previously turned her hand to fashion, furniture, sculpture and styling, was similarly inspired by the natural world for a collaboration two years ago in Milan with the Brooklyn-based wallpaper company Calico, which produced papers



**Right** Paul Smith and 1882 founder Emily Johnson at the company's factory in Stoke-on-Trent



based on depictions of landscapes. This year, she is once again working with the brand, but has turned her attention to the female form. The collection, titled *Muse*, riffs on the current preoccupation with figurative art that has seen faces and bodies appear on everything from ceramics to rugs in recent months, but takes the concept of wall art to another level. The motifs

### **Faces and bodies appear on everything from ceramics to rugs**

have been digitally printed from original artworks hand-painted by Toogood with broad brushstrokes in a palette of rich, inky tones.

The British duo Edward Barber and Jay Osgerby – designers of the torch for the 2012 London Olympics – have been working with the American furniture company Knoll for the past six years, and this year have turned their attention to a dining table collection called

*Smalto*. They describe the design process behind it as ‘an exercise in purity and simplicity’, and the tables, which come in three sizes, are made entirely from enamelled steel, a hard-working material chosen for its tough quality and sleek, modern look. ‘Enamelling has a really strong materiality and tactility that cannot be replicated in other finishes,’ says Barber. ‘The colours you can achieve through this process have a real depth and vibrancy and the finish is also extremely durable, perfect for a table top.’ The tables come in a choice of five chic colours, from forest green to dark aubergine, and their curved edges give the hard surface a softer aesthetic, as well as chiming with the current trend for rounded forms.

And something that might sit rather nicely on top of these tables is a collection of one-off, brightly coloured ceramic vessels by the fashion designer Paul Smith, produced in Stoke-on-Trent by the boutique pottery company 1882 Ltd – a taster ahead of a tableware collection to come later in the year. ♦



  
*David Salisbury*

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## Five trends emerging from Milan

### Lino is back

Lino has appeared as a trending material this year. The flooring company Tarkett has worked with Note Design Studio on huge pillars and columns covered in an eco-friendly version of the material (below), in a variety of pretty colours and terrazzo-style patterns.



### Bauhaus style

This year's centenary of the Bauhaus school has been the inspiration for many a product – its influence showing in furniture with strong, graphic lines and a monochrome palette, such as this Lull lounge chair by Porro.

### Sustainability is key

The natural world takes a starring role in many collections. Among the most interesting results are architect John Pawson's marble tableware and utensils for the Italian company Salvectori.



### Curves are cool

The vogue for curvy furniture is showing no sign of abating. This new lounge chair by Jaime Hayon for Fritz Hansen is a case in point.



### Furniture that looks and feels good

It's what the world needs right now, and among those stepping up to the plate are Raw Edges, which has worked with Louis Vuitton on a collection of playful chairs, and Google, which is staging an installation with Muuto, looking at how furniture can affect well-being.



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