
THE FINER THINGS



THE KYOTO-COPENHAGEN COMPLEX

In global design culture, few places are as spiritually linked – if geographically distant – as Japan and Scandinavia. Perhaps as a result, in the Japanese archipelago and the Nordic nations, ancient crafts frequently combine with high modernity to produce goods that are at once democratically functional, aesthetically beautiful, and perfectly crafted. One Danish studio are doing their bit for cross-cultural communication. With the launch of Japan Homemade, superlative Copenhagen designers OeO are building bridges with the artisans of Kyoto – and beyond. It's a collective approach to Japanese artisanal industry, by bringing together a number of traditional crafts companies and exposing them to a far wider market. Included in the initiative are 140-year-old tea caddy manufacturers Kaikado, David Lynch-endorsed fabric makers Hosoo, and bamboo crafts company Kohchosai Kosuga, who made a kitchen-ware collection with OeO. The Copenhagen studio has also collaborated with their Japanese partners on a series of collections, including hand-dyed scarfs made with textile-makers Kamawanu. Just one way that Scandinavia's echoes have been heard around the world.

Japan-handmade.com

POTTING COMES HOME

September marked the opening of Kähler Design's new flagship store in Næstved, the same provincial Danish town where master potter Herman J Kähler originally migrated from Germany to set up his business back in 1839. During the 180 years that followed, Kähler grew into a ceramics brand with exhibitions and stockists all over the world. Located in the company's original workshop, the new store and mini-museum was designed in collaboration with Copenhagen-based Brünner Studio. Kähler Design CEO Jesper Holst Schmidt says: "It is more than just a shop opening, it is a place where history lives on." Kahlerdesign.com



AESOP'S STABLE OF ARCHITECTS

Quality skin care strengthens the architecture we're born with and Aesop's interest in architecture doesn't stop there. The Australian alchemists, who create luxurious products for skin, hair and body, are committed to equally inspired design in their retail spaces. Aesop's collaborations with world-class architects and designers for each of their signature retail stores have included Scandinavian design firms In Praise of Shadows (Sweden) and Snøhetta (Norway). Organic curves and shimmering surfaces are found throughout stores in Oslo, Singapore, Düsseldorf and Berlin, thanks to Snøhetta. In Stockholm, the two Aesop retail spaces have become a meditation on natural materials in refined minimalist spaces - the work of In Praise of Shadows. Scandinavian aesthetics have met their match in the Australian brand's range of products - two corners of the world, united in a desire to celebrate natural beauty.

Aesop.com

Snøhetta.com

Inpraiseofshadows.se



IKEA'S NEW GANG

Swedish home store giant IKEA is bringing in new blood with a host of collaborators, from the experimental Parisian artist duo, Pinar & Viola, to prolific British designer Tom Dixon, an industry stalwart. Danish brand HAY have redesigned IKEA's iconic Frakta bag, swapping the signature blue and yellow for more soothing tones of forest green and white, with the colour palette also evident in HAY's new line of furniture, lighting, accessories and textiles. In an ongoing collaboration, the sustainably minded Dutch designer, Piet Hein Eek, known for making scrap-wood furniture from timber offcuts, is launching his Jassa collection of furniture and homeware, inspired by traditional Indonesian and Vietnamese crafts. Pinar Demirdag and Viola Renate, of duo Pinar & Viola, have created a series of daring, futuristic new prints for the limited edition STUNSIG collection, designing mythical animals, cosmic giraffes and aliens which will brandish everything from duvet covers to cups. Meanwhile, Dixon has created a new furniture range that explores comfortable, modular, flexible and lightweight seating for small, modern living spaces - an IKEA speciality.

Ikea.com

TEXT BY GIULIA ARCIACONO MUTTI, JULIE VITTO, ATHENA WISOTSKY

THE ICONS COME HOME

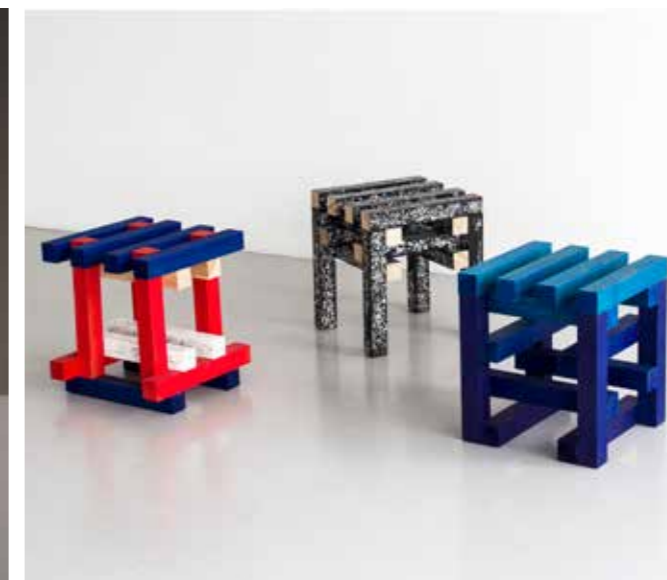
Fritz Hansen has been synonymous with Scandinavian furniture design since the early 1870s, when cabinet-maker Hansen first opened his production company in Copenhagen. Throughout the years, the brand has created of some of the most recognizable pieces in the history of design, including the iconic *Swan*, *Egg* and laminated *Series 7* chairs. In September, the brand celebrated the opening of its flagship store in Copenhagen. Occupying the site of a former mansion and royal post office in the heart of the city, the 270sqm space showcases Nordic design classics from Arne Jacobsen and Poul Kjærholm, as well as contemporary furniture from Jaime Hayón and Cecilie Manz among others. Fritzhanzen.com



MODERN WONDER

Modern art deserves an inspired setting, and the Alvar and Elissa Aalto-designed Kunsten Museum of Modern Art doesn't disappoint. After undergoing renovations for a year and a half, the striking modernist museum in Aalborg, Denmark is re-opening its doors. Greeting visitors is a new exhibition space filled with international works dating back to 1900, a refurbished sculpture park and terrace, and the new Café Aalto, run by Danish Michelin-starred chef Tina Jakobsen. Kunsten Museum of Modern Art is the only museum building outside Alvar Aalto's native Finland to be designed by the world-renowned architect. When the museum opened its doors in 1972, it wowed visitors with its vast expanse of white Italian marble in the interior, and the new renovations which are the work of Danish architecture firm C.F. Møller, will only add to that sense of wonder.

Kunsten.dk



EVERYTHING STARTS WITH AN E

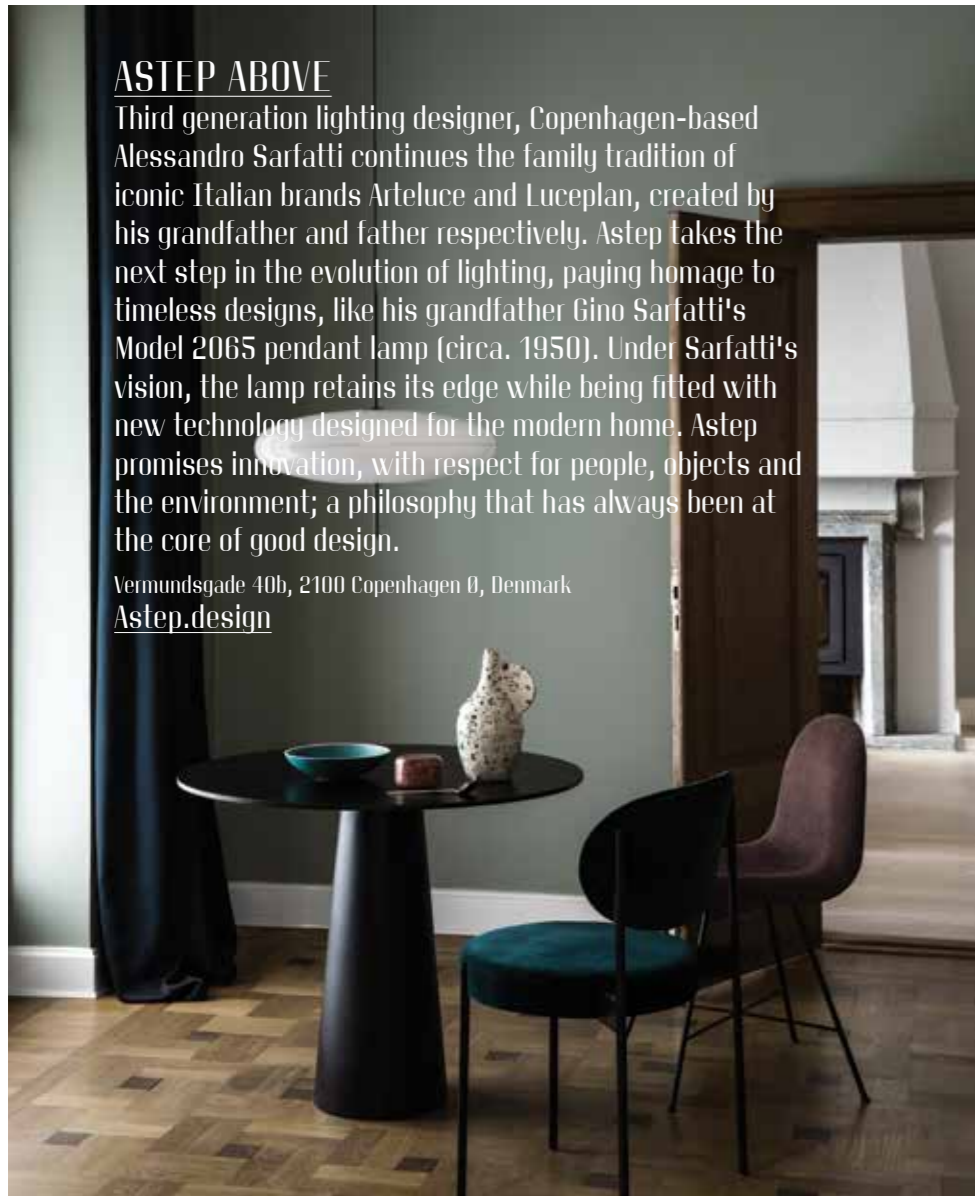
In 2013, Uppsala-born designer Erik Olovsson, founded Studio E.O., a Stockholm-based multidisciplinary design lab working across product, furniture and graphic design. At the core of Studio E.O.'s practice is an experimental approach to materials and techniques. This translates into the most diverse projects, from series of glass vases hand-blown into fluid shapes and set atop geometric stone blocks, to bold, slatted pine stools treated with screen-print dye and elegant polished metal bookends. As the mastermind behind Studio E.O. explains, "I try to work a lot with intuition and learn from daily experimentations, and the outcome is usually playful and graphic. A lot of my projects don't have a fixed start or end, which I believe is a good way for me to approach design."

Studioeo.se

ASTEP ABOVE

Third generation lighting designer, Copenhagen-based Alessandro Sarfatti continues the family tradition of iconic Italian brands Arteluce and Luceplan, created by his grandfather and father respectively. Astep takes the next step in the evolution of lighting, paying homage to timeless designs, like his grandfather Gino Sarfatti's Model 2065 pendant lamp (circa. 1950). Under Sarfatti's vision, the lamp retains its edge while being fitted with new technology designed for the modern home. Astep promises innovation, with respect for people, objects and the environment; a philosophy that has always been at the core of good design.

Vermundsgade 40b, 2100 Copenhagen Ø, Denmark
Astep.design



CLEAN SAILING

Carl Kai Rand has come a long way since deciding, aged six, that after starting sailing, he wanted to design boats. With a background in naval architecture and product design, Copenhagen-based Rand has been pushing the boundaries of design and clean-tech since 2013. Driven by a desire to make "the best of something very particular and original" – like electric picnic boats and carbon solar yachts – along with a sense of freedom you can only get with contact with nature and the ocean. For Rand creating sustainable and aesthetically pleasing boats was essential. "Polluting and noisy gasoline engine would separate us from the social interaction on board and lay waste on the nature that we are out there to connect with," he says. Conceived with usability, social functionality and a strong sense of detail in mind, RAND Boats are the ideal combination between fume-free sailing, low-key luxury and Scandinavian simplicity.

Randboats.com



EVERY TABLE TELLS A STORY

Some of the best moments of your life will take place while sitting around a table. An intimate dinner party, an afternoon birthday, or a joyful wedding celebration – the table is the inevitable setting for so many of our memories. With A Table Story, Danish curators Irine Kjær and Mette Well Gaard Andersen are taking those occasions and elevating them, by setting memorable scenes for special occasions, from a birthday meal, to a wedding dinner. Using everything from wooden boards, colourful antique glassware and sparkling crystal, as well as porcelain and stoneware from iconic Nordic brands – the curators customise every setting to the occasion, so you can make it entirely your own. Send out the invitations and let A Table Story do the rest.

Atablestory.dk



THINK TWICE

Growing up in Beijing, but now based in Bergen, Cecilia Xinyu Zhang is a multidisciplinary designer. Her practice spans the field of furniture, spatial design, lighting, digital interaction and art. With an MFA from Gothenburg's School of Design and Crafts under her belt, Xinyu Zhang creates designs that reflect upon tradition while playing with perceptions through visual dynamism and illusion. Her most recent work, *Scraped Mirror*, exemplifies just that – the blurred reflection produced by a partly scraped and imperfect mirror film, applied onto a plywood and metal surface, stands in stark contrast to the flawlessness associated with mirrors. As Xinyu Zhang explains, "The work creates the impression that a mirror is gradually merged with another material, thus challenging the perception of what an everyday object can be."

Ceciliaxinyuzhang.com

CULTURE SHOCK

"No Future, New Culture" is the slogan of a new collaboration between Silas Adler of Danish menswear brand Soulland and Danish furniture maker Bolia. Inspired by Danish social housing of the 1960s and 70s, and contrasting materials, the collection launches in 2017. Featuring cognac colored leather, steel and concrete, Adler has created striking yet functional furniture, storage solutions and accessories. His trademark approach, of combining craftsmanship with unusual details, is clearly visible. "The slogan 'No Future, New Culture' collects some of the contrasts that are the common thread in both history and material," explains Adler. The slogan can be found woven into an oval Berber shag rug in his signature script. A collaboration that manages to inspire through concept and form, is no small feat. We look forward to seeing more.

Bolia.com



Small enough to fit in the palm of your hand, get packing a punch in sound quality, the Beoplay A1 wireless speaker is the latest from Danish brand Bang & Olufsen. The speaker only weighs 600 grams and uses Bluetooth for music and phone calls. It keeps up with even the most rigorous schedule, with 24 hours of battery life. A combination of lightweight aluminium grill, polymer base and a soft leather cord makes this stylish little speaker the ideal companion for long Nordic nights.

Beoplay.com



A NEW YORK STATE OF LAMP

Established in 2015, PHOLC is a Swedish design company specializing in the development of Scandinavian style lighting solutions with an urban twist. Conceived to "look great in a New York City loft," their latest product, *Mobil 3*, is a minimalist, industrial-looking movable metal and glass ceiling lamp consisting of four arms of equal length, joined together at different angles. As designer Monika Mulder explains, "Using black metal tubes and round glass bulbs was a given when thinking of the city's typical black metal balcony racks and the round streetlights on Brooklyn Bridge." Mobil 3 is part of a larger collection, which also includes a wall and table lamp.

Pholc.se



LISTEN UP

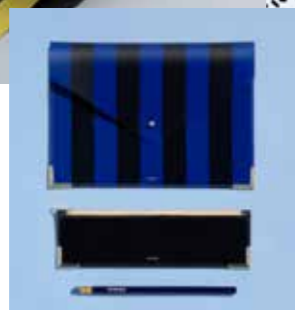


NORTHERN HOSPITALITY

Danish minimalism and socially conscious business practices give a new boutique hotel in Manhattan a definite edge on the competition. Set in New York's fashionable SoHo district, 11 Howard was built in collaboration with Danish creative consultant Oliver Gustav and influential Danish design firm Space Copenhagen. But what really sets the hotel apart, is it's work with the Global Poverty Project. The non-profit's mission is to have a world without extreme poverty by 2030, and they ensure that a portion of each room rate is donated to fight poverty around the world. Luxury with a conscience really can do a world of good.

11 Howard Street, New York, NY 10013, USA

11howard.com



IT'S ALL IN THE DETAILS

Like a kid in a candy store, Normann Copenhagen's Daily Fiction collection will tempt adults to indulge, thanks to a dizzying collection of vivid, patterned stationery. Designed by Copenhagen-based creative agency, Femmes Regionales, this collection of essentials is firmly rooted in fashion while maintaining its focus on function. Designed in a palette of soft blues, pinks and yellows, as well as a range of fabrics, from canvas to velvet, the Daily Fiction collection includes 200 items. With notebooks, pens, gift-wrapping and a plethora of office tools available, it's enough to fulfill any whim. Available at the new Normann Copenhagen shop in Terminal 2 at Copenhagen Airport and at stores globally, the Daily Fiction collection promises to enliven even the most mundane of tasks.

Normanncopenhagen.com
Femmesregionales.com



ONE IN A MILLION

Founded in 2015 by childhood friends Jens Kajus and Claus Jakobsen, Copenhagen-based design brand Million produces contemporary furniture, lighting and accessories that combine Scandinavian minimalism, innovation and functionality with high-quality, natural materials such as marble, glass, steel and wood. "Our vision is to build a platform and a brand that lets us design, develop and produce products that we are excited about," Kajus says. Created with the support of a small group of designers and architects and produced in northern Europe, Million's products owe early success to their distinctive look and manufacturing value. Looking beyond the borders of Scandinavian design, it is influenced by 20th century German and Dutch aesthetics as well as contemporary French, Japanese and American traditions. "We all want our homes to reflect our interests and who we are as individuals," Kajus explains, "that is one of the reasons why we chose the name Million, because we embrace the idea that home interiors can take on countless different expressions."

Millioncph.com

NEW NORDIC, NEW YORK

There is no doubt in anyone's mind that Danish gastronpreneur Claus Meyer is bringing New Nordic Cuisine straight to the heart of New York City. His new 110-seat brasserie in Grand Central Terminal will sit near the Nordic food hall he recently created. The restaurant is named Agern, Danish for acorn. Not only is it the fruit of Denmark's national tree, the oak, but acorns were also part of the daily diet for both Scandinavians and indigenous peoples of North America. Driven by the seasons, Agern's menu emphasises sustainability. Fittingly, Icelandic head chef Gunnar Gíslason uses farmed and wild ingredients from New York state to produce a menu rooted in Nordic cuisine techniques and flavors. The Meyer family tree is represented in the restaurant's interior design, the vision of Meyer's wife, Christina Meyer Bengtsson and her design partner Ulrik Nordentoft, who achieved a Scandinavian aesthetic through natural wood elements and sleek, mid-century furniture. Like an acorn that grows into a mighty oak, so has Claus Meyer's legacy of championing the principles of New Nordic cuisine spread throughout the world.

89 East 42nd St., New York, NY 10017
Agernrestaurant.com



MORE OF A GOOD THING

The history of design and architecture owes a lot to the humble arch, and the Archetto bookshelf, designed by Swede Charlotte Ackemar, celebrates the arch ingeniously. Made from moulded beech wood and oak veneer, the wall-mounted shelf provides plenty of surface space for displaying a few of your favourite things. Based on the simple arrangement of three arches - one vertical and two horizontal - the shelf includes an easy-to-hang tray. The Archetto is the smaller sibling to the Arch bookshelf series, designed by Ackemar for the Stockholm-based Note Design Studio, and made in collaboration with 30-year-old Swedish furniture manufacturer Fogia. Whether you chose the bookshelf for one wall or four, the carefully crafted Archetto will support your ideas for years to come.

Notedesignstudio.se
Fogia.se



HOUSE WARMING

Finnish design brand Artek is right at home in its new flagship store, which neighbors its old stomping ground in the heart of Helsinki's design district. The store moved house into a 1921 landmark built by Finnish architect Eliel Saarinen that sits nearby the Rautatalo (Iron House), which Artek called home from 1954 to 1991. The renovated retail space offers an exclusively curated selection of furniture, lighting and accessories on two floors. Also in store, expect an expanded book and magazine section, a plant corner and a workshop where iconic pieces, like Finnish architect Alvar Aalto's Stool 60, can be customised on site. Welcome Artek back into the neighborhood by treating yourself to a house-warming gift, it would be difficult not to.

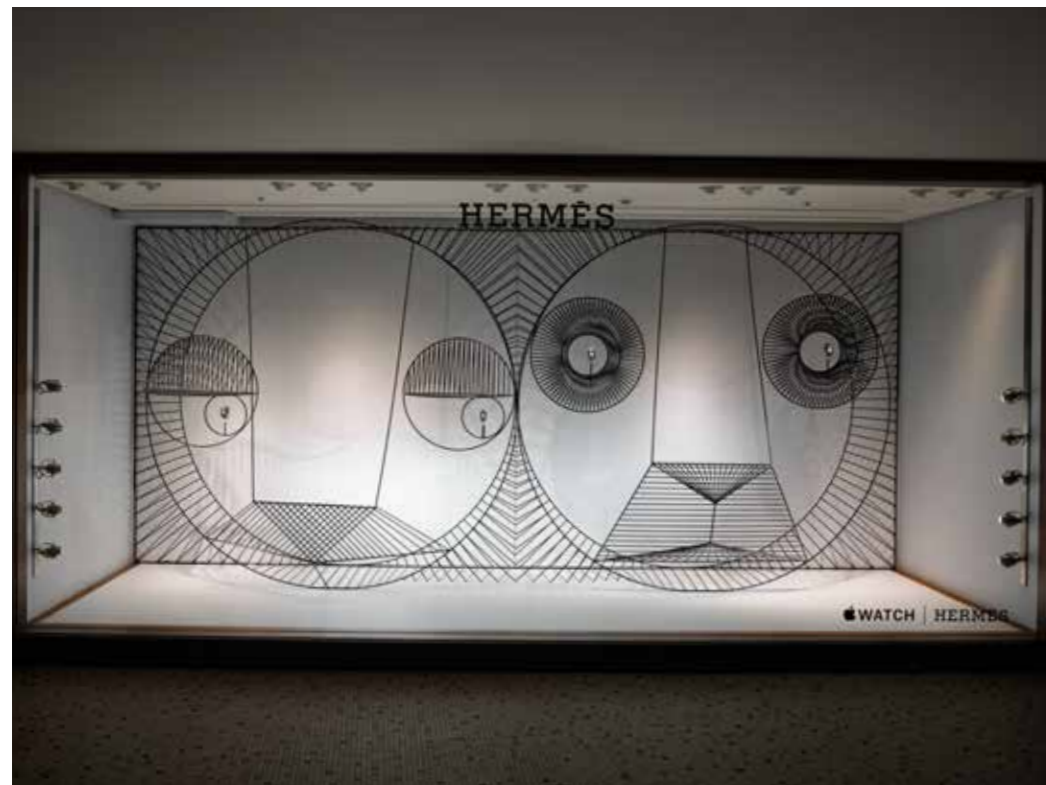
Keskuskatu 1B, 00100 Helsinki, Finland
Artek.fi

NORTH ATLANTIC KNITS

What does the isolation, remote wilderness and unpredictable weather of the West Nordic islands do to its cultural identity and creativity? American-Austrian artist duo Cooper & Gorfer set out to explore exactly that, by travelling through Iceland, Greenland and the Faroe Islands in search of local fashion designers and textile artisans. During their travels, Sarah Cooper and Nina Gorfer gathered stories, charting the historical trajectory of local fabric and fashion. In *The Weather Diaries*, the resulting exhibition and book, photographs approach clothmaking and identity. The results are enchanting – and unnerving. "It plays with the synergy and love affair that exists between fashion and art," the two artists say of the project, which involved 12 designers from the North Atlantic, including Gudrun & Gudrun, Bibi Chemnitz and Barbara i Gongini. From the Inuit-inspired knitting of *The Fifth Daughters* to the dreamy lace gowns of *Dalaledudreikinn*, girls and old ladies in traditional garb appear almost ghost-like in Cooper & Gorfer's highly stylized images, like figures fading into the natural world.

Coopergorfer.com





WATCH OUT FOR THE TIGER

Danish-Italian design studio GamFratesi teamed up with Hermès in the creation of animalistic compositions for the luxury brand's Apple Watch window displays in Japan. The large, optical piece of a lion, panther, parrot and flamingo were made using black metal wire and inspired by the illustrations of the late wildlife artist and naturalist, Robert Dallet, a French illustrator who collaborated with the French fashion house in the past and whose artwork had already been featured in Hermès' 2016 *Nature at Full Gallop* collection. "The precise detail of Dallet's animals has been translated into a few distinct lines to create the various exotic animals in this playful and iconic display," says Stine Gam, who along with Enrico Fratesi makes up one half of GamFratesi. Featuring handmade orange leather straps, along with a Hermès watch face and logo, Hermès Apple Watches hang bright in the middle of the animals' eyes. "We wanted to create a black and white display where Apple Watches were positioned inside the eyes," Gam says, "then different images were displayed on the screens, like pupils, to create a dynamic effect and together with the straps become the only sign of colour in the windows."

Gamfratesi.com

SPACE IS THE PLACE

SPACE Copenhagen, the Danish design duo behind the interiors for world-renowned restaurants Noma and Geranium, have put their magic touch on two new dining spots in the heart of Copenhagen. In LouLou, SPACE designers Signe Bindslev Henriksen and Peter Bundgaard Rützou have created a low key and atmospheric environment, with soft tones, mirrors and modern art adding an air of whimsy to the restaurant, atypical of Nordic design. It's not their first go-round with star Danish chef Bo Bech, the duo also designed his acclaimed restaurant Geist in 2011. SPACE's second new gastro design collaboration is with Anders Selmer and Bagge Algreen, for new restaurant Musling, on the edges of Torvehallerne food market. Selmer and Algreen are the creators of acclaimed Copenhagen fish restaurant Fiskebaren, and they're obviously onto a good thing with the seafood theme; Musling serves sustainable seafood, greens and natural wines. Here, SPACE use natural materials like iron, leather and oak to underscore the authenticity of the cuisine. It's clear that when it comes of marrying Danish design with Nordic cuisine, SPACE are still the undisputed masters of the game.

Spaceph.dk



SOFT TOUCH

Danish design studio Frama has made its mark by infusing classic Danish design with fresh new ideas. Now the forward-thinking studio has expanded its product line from furniture and lighting to include a lifestyle concept, bringing in skin care and apparel. The St. Paul's Apothecary Collection infuses the fresh, aromatic scents of sandalwood, cedar, ylang-ylang and lemongrass into a perfume, as well as a softening lotion and hand wash. The products are all made in Copenhagen and bottled in Italian smoked glass containers. The design studio has also introduced the Limbo Cashmere Collection of basic apparel, created by hip Danish performance artist and provocateur, Sophus Ritto. His 100% cashmere line is unisex and locally produced in Nepal. Frama's new concepts show that the principles of good design can be applied to everything, as long as you start with a great idea.

Framacph.com



BACK IN BLACK

The Cabinetmakers' Autumn Exhibition is an organisation founded in 1981 that once a year celebrates Danish furniture design, with a theme-driven group show. The best local designers and manufacturers pair up to produce and display their work, and newcomers are welcomed.

This year they have a new president, Claus Mølgaard, and the theme for the Autumn show is Pitch Black. Last year's Petit was about thinking small, with a 60 by 60 cm limit imposed on all submissions. This year, all the furniture must be black, and early glimpses showed an exhibitor using shou sugi ban, the ancient Japanese technique of charring wood.

The exhibition is on view in the King's Lapidary in Copenhagen
Se-design.dk



HALLUCINOGENIC RUGS

Co-founded by Danish textile designers Anne Louise Rasmussen and Maja Marie Halling, Copenhagen-based Rød Studio creates experimental carpet designs using materials as diverse as horse and goat hair and dyed wool. Rød Studio's new collection of Moroccan-inspired carpets, *Assemblage*, is a textile rainbow of colours and shapes, representing the duo's subjective interpretation of the visual identity of the city of Marrakech. "Originally we got fascinated by the aesthetic complexity of Marrakech, where the abundance of colours, patterns and tactility create a tantalizing experience," Rasmussen and Halling explain. The result is an interesting take on traditionally tasteful design: "Our work always reflects our curiosity and passion for combining various materials and techniques, along with our interest in challenging traditional colour palettes and thereby the conventional ideas of good taste."

roed-studio.com



STEEL THIS BOWL

When Danish silversmith Georg Jensen founded his design company in Copenhagen in 1904, the idea was to create objects that were at once functional, democratic and beautiful. His philosophy is still very much at the core of the Georg Jensen brand. Spanning silverware, jewellery, hollowware and home products, Georg Jensen's collections reflect the company's vision of simple, clean Scandinavian design. For its latest collaborative project, the Danish design house joined forces with Spanish designer and architect Patricia Urquiola to create a collection of stainless steel bowls, pitchers, candleholders, vases and trays. Reinventing pieces from the company's archives, the *Urkiola* collection features ribbed steel surfaces and warm rose-gold finishes. "Patricia Urquiola's collection marks an important design evolution for Georg Jensen, as she has inspired us to see stainless steel in a new context," chairman David Chu says.

Georgjensen.com