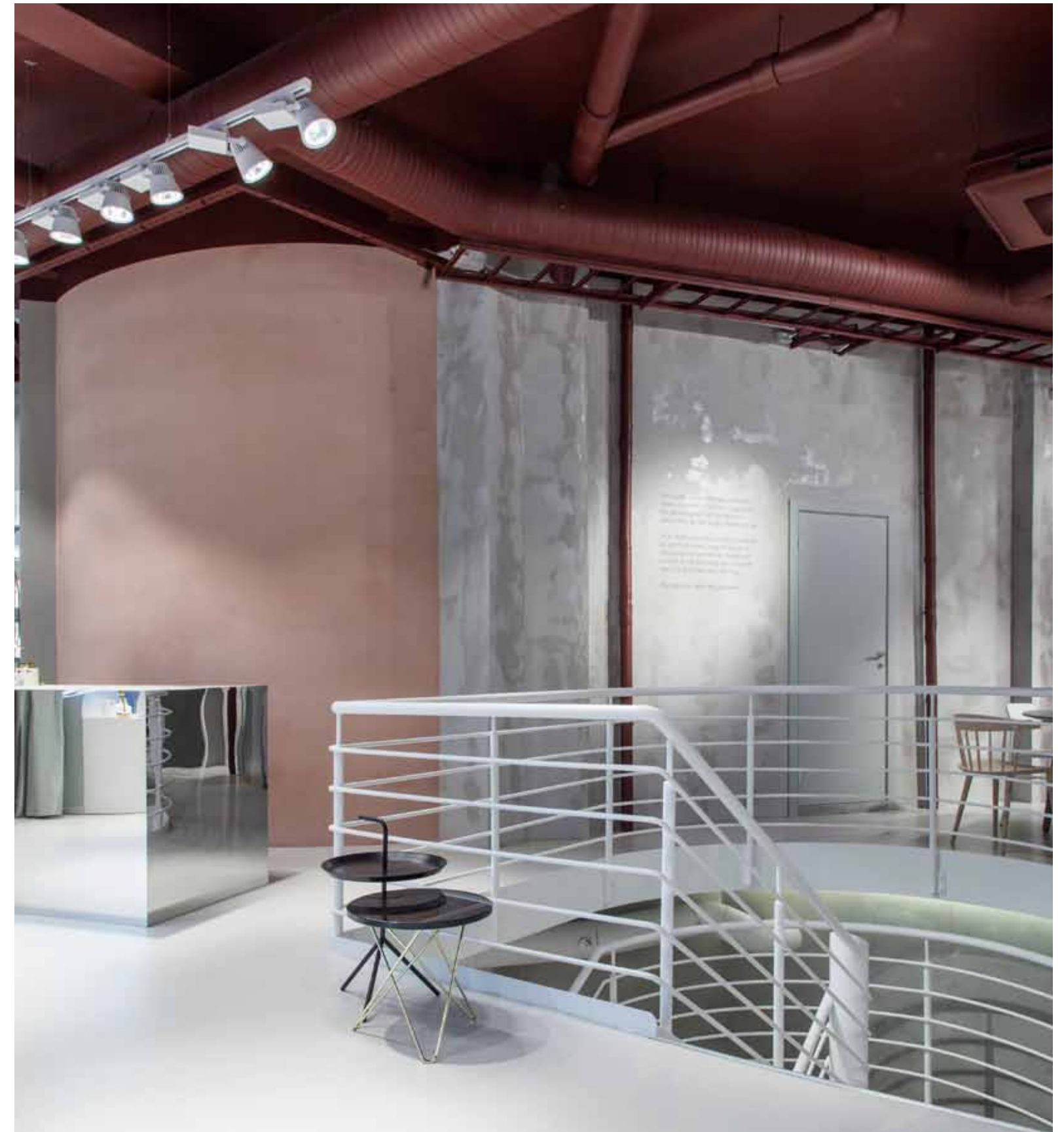


THE FINER THINGS



A NEW GENERATION OF SHOPPING

Bergen-based Glass Thomsen is the go-to store for turning houses into homes with its huge selection of housewares and accent pieces by established and upcoming designers. Naturally, the newest generation from the century-old Norwegian family business felt it was time to give its flagship store a makeover. Enter Danish stylist Sofie Brünner, whose studio created a chic warehouse interior concept and redesigned how to shop for that Marimekko bowl you never knew you needed.

Glass Thomsen, Chr. Michelsens gate 6A, 5012 Bergen
Glassthomsen.no



THE SECRET CHAIR

In the archives of deceased artists and writers forgotten masterpieces may lie hidden until found by some lucky soul and given the attention they deserve. Obviously, the same holds true for designers, and one such masterpiece is Hans J. Wegner's (1914-2007) chair *CH26*, designed in 1950, but never manufactured. Not even a prototype of the chair exists, only Wegner's own workshop drawing. It is not known why, but it is certain that present and future generations will rejoice at its fine curves and well-defined, distinct shape – the master's clear creative stamp, evident in each of the more than 500 chairs he designed in his lifetime. Carlhansen.com



FROM IKEA WITH LOVE

Swedish furniture giant Ikea is known all over the world for its simple design solutions at affordable prices – and for its superlatively effective export of Scandinavian interior design philosophy. The chain's critics feel that the mass-produced items help push local handicraft off the stage, while its advocates emphasize Ikea's democratic approach to design, which allows everybody, regardless of financial capabilities, to create simple and functional homes for themselves. In a new collaboration with Swedish glass designer and ceramicist Ingegerd Råman (1943), Ikea has created a series of items that may well entice even the most hardened anti-consumerist into the local department store. The series, to be launched worldwide in May, has been given the name *Viktigt* (which means Important) – and though it is produced by craftsmen in Poland and Indonesia, the aesthetics are unmistakably Nordic. Ikea.com



SOUND OF STYLE

Copenhagen, Stockholm, and Helsinki are not just names of Nordic capitals; they are the stylish headliners in a new range of wireless loudspeakers by Danish manufacturer Vifa. Since 1933 the company has been known for premium sound quality and in recent years the designer look has brought in a new audience of audiophiles. Leading Danish textile manufacturer Kvadrat contributes a timeless woven textile cover for the speakers, which combine vintage appeal with modern capabilities. World class sound never looked this good. Vifa.dk

TEXT MARIE MONRAD GRAUNBOL, ATHENA WITSOTSKY & JULIE VITTO PHOTOGRAPHY ENOK HOLSEGAARD, JANNICK BOERLUM, OSKAR FALCK

DANCING DUNE

Old processes and new collide in this stunning collection recently released by Swedish designer Anna Elzer Oscarson. Using 3D technology and old casting techniques to get consistent, immaculate forms, she subsequently collaborates with some of the best authorities in glaze making to create the earthy palettes and tones of *Dancing Dune*. The designs, whose curves and swirls do suggest dunes blown by the wind, are of course manufactured locally at Porslinsfabriken in Lidköping, Sweden. Aeo-studio.com



PORCELAIN OR PLASTIC?

If you feel nostalgic for the disposable tableware used in little Asian roadside restaurants, then Denmark's esteemed Lyngby Porcelain has a line for you. Designed by Pili Wu with Han Gallery of Taipei, *Isé* is a refined, lightweight series of porcelain pieces inspired by visual and sensual associations with life in Taiwan. The collection includes a teapot, cups, bowl, and candleholder hand-polished and ribbed to make you wonder: is this porcelain or plastic? Lyngbyporcelain.com



THE REVOLUTION OF THE RUBBER BOOT

In 1892, just one year after enterprising plutocrat Johan Dunker and his son Henry founded their rubber factory in Helsingborg, they produced 39,000 pairs of rubber galoshes. A mere four years later the number had risen to a million, and the many pieces of footwear were sold to Swedish fishermen and workers who needed to keep their feet warm and dry in the wet and windy northern climes. But the rubber boot, named *Tretorn*, was not the Dunker family's only invention – soon the factory became known for its superior work conditions with paid vacations, free health care, and childcare; conditions that smoothed the path for new ways of thinking about workers' rights in Sweden. Today *Tretorn* is still best known for their classic rubber boots (and their iconic preppy trainers, which had their heyday in the 1970s) – and the workers' rights, which then constituted a small revolution, have now become an integral part of the Scandinavian welfare model. Tretorn.com

KEEP IT PERSONAL

When Danish designer Pia Lauritsen could not find the perfect accent piece for her home, she made it herself. Thus, *By KlipKlip* was born. The *KK Daybed* is the company's clever example of how multi-purpose furniture lets you find exactly what you are looking for whenever you need it. Arrange the cushions any way you want to rest on the sturdy oak frame – or remove them all to reveal an accent table. Byklipklap.dk



TAKE A DEEP BREATH

What does the special feeling of calm and tranquility smell like? According to the people at Danish Skandinavisk, the scent of *Ko* is a subtle symphony of freshly cut grass, crumbled leaves, and ambered woods. The small company based in Copenhagen has also transformed Scandinavian concepts of *hygge* (Danish for cosiness), *lempi* (Finnish for love), and *nat* (Danish and Norwegian for night) into pastel coloured, fragranced candles and scent diffusers that celebrate the unique Scandinavian way of life while offering seductive sensory experiences. The perfect souvenir for design aficionados and picky nostrils alike. Skandinavisk.com



THE RARE BEAUTY OF A DANISH SWAN

Danish architect and designer Arne Jacobsen's iconic *Swan* chair first made a splash in the lobby of the SAS Royal Hotel in Copenhagen in 1958. Today function continues to meet form in the Danish Modern tradition with a limited run of 300 chairs now upholstered in velvety nubuck leather. Republic of Fritz Hansen is releasing its *Choice Swan Edition* in two exclusive pastel colours of dusty rose and lyne grass. The silky, soft surface of the nubuck plays with the light depending on the angle, giving the classic chair an ever-changing look. Fritzhansen.com



MAKING DESIGN MATTER

Helping humanity can be as simple as giving someone a designer teddy bear. Danish design brand Menu has launched *Nepal Projects* in collaboration with Danish national development agency Danida to provide fair employment opportunities to young vulnerable women in one of the world's poorest countries. The result is an exquisite collection of hand-woven scarves and blankets, puffy pillows, roomy laundry bags, and – not least – cool teddy bears that combine traditional fabric working skills with modern Scandinavian appeal. *Nepal Projects* bridges the East and the West with production based in Kathmandu and designs conceived by Copenhagen's Norm Architects and A Hint of Neon as well as Stockholm's Afteroom and Note Design Studio. Menu.as



FAMOUS NEW RAINCOAT

Not long ago Swedish copywriter Alexander Stutterheim was cleaning out his grandfather's house when he stumbled upon an old raincoat. He tried it on and the idea for Stutterheim Raincoats was born. Since then, the Stockholm-based company's classic reinterpretation of iconic rainwear styles handmade in rubberized cotton has been instantly embraced by luxury retailers and stylish rain dogs all over the world. Stutterheim.com



GEOMETRY RULES

When it comes to adorning a room with the perfect arrangement of geometric shapes, Danish graphic artist Kristina Krogh knows a thing or two. This summer look for her new line of interior objects produced in mirror-polished steel, solid brass, and oak to enhance any vertical or horizontal plane. Her love of geometrics manifests itself in the form of a round sculptural wall mirror with 360 degrees of hanging possibilities. Also in the collection is a graphic desk organizer set consisting of angled objects, half moons, and spheres for when you want to keep things in place – or just keep things interesting. Kkrogh.dk



SMALL PLEASURES

The new *Tittala X Issey Miyake* collection by Finnish heritage design brand and the iconic Japanese fashion house features thirty objects for the kitchen and home: delicate glass vases, small ceramic cups and plates, and textiles – all in a bright palette fresh with jewel tones and colours of spring. The collection, unified by each brand's dedication to innovation and quality, is designed to bring harmony to the home and welcome you to indulge and take pleasure in the domestic routines and actions performed each day. The textiles – napkins, coasters, placemats, and cushion covers – feature Issey Miyake's signature pleats, a style the brand has explored heavily and developed through the decades. Tittala.com Isseymiyake.com



A LIVE WIRE

Handwoven, using the same methods since 1922, Korbo baskets represent the epitome of timelessness and tradition in Swedish design. Each basket is woven from a single long piece of weather-proof wire and completely free of welding, meaning they have no weak spots and therefore can stand up to wear and tear that fishermen, gardeners, or anyone else could possibly subject them to. Korbo.se



MENT TO BE

What happens when two sisters join forces and purchase an out-of-service ski factory? In the case of Norwegians Ingvild and Sidsel Forr Hemma, a ceramics company was born. Uniting their shared backgrounds in design with a mutual belief in conscious consumerism, the sisters transformed the old factory into a place where they could explore their inspirations and ideas. By now they have made ten series of porcelain objects, all boasting their characteristic retro shapes and palettes. Being surrounded by the local Laagen River, mountains, and wildlife also has an influence on their work, manifested in mossy, icy colours and organic shapes. Ment.no



A GUIDING LIGHT

Arne Jacobsen's (1902-1971) design contributions to Scandinavia and the world at large have been immeasurable, his brand of minimalism still heavily influencing modern generations of creatives decades after his active years. To that end, a modern effort is made to pay homage to the vast collection of furniture and goods he designed for the 1960 launch of the legendary SAS Royal Hotel in Copenhagen. Another landmark revival came this spring with Georg Jensen's relaunch of Arne Jacobsen's historic candleholder design, which along with the *AJ Cutlery* (also produced with Georg Jensen), the *Swan*, *Egg*, and *Drop* chairs – and of course the building itself – was debuted by Jacobsen for the opening of Copenhagen's first skyscraper. There is still one room intact in its original design – aficionados can make reservations for Room 606 to see the original styling of the rooms. Georgjensen.com



DETAIL ORIENTED

The objects in the recently launched line extension *Details* from Swedish designers G.A.D. focus on the accents and touches that tie a home together, and their elegant yet sturdy proportions create the perfect blend of craftsmanship and coolness. The majority of the designs are made by hand at G.A.D.'s joinery on Gotland, using small scale production methods and local materials including leather, wool, limestone, oils, and beeswax: the best of everything, really. It is the essentials done exceptionally. Gad.se

OPEN HOUSE

Exquisitely designed fashions for him and her are the signature of Finnish creative studio and design house Samuji, and now the brand's newest store Samuji House in Helsinki is open on two floors of a courtyard-cradled shopping center offering not only clothing, but also selected art pieces, print fabrics, furniture, and lighting. In addition to its wide range of in-house designs, the retailer also stocks products from collaborators like Artek and a vast number of beautiful vintage pieces. If you need an instant interior upgrade, Samuji House extends an open invitation. Samuji.com



HELLO HECTOR

Danish furniture manufacturer Erik Jørgensen is especially known for his production of classic sofas that since 1954 have been interior design staples in tens of thousands Scandinavian homes. Since its establishment the company has made it part of its trade mark to attract and shape young design talents, most recently Norwegian duo Torbjørn Anderssen and Espen Voll, who have designed the brand's new sofa – a beautiful spongy item by the name of *Hector*, which with its leather and canvas up-holstery continues the Nordic tradition for absolute laid-back luxury. Erik-joergensen.com
Anderssen-voll.com



LET'S HEAR IT FOR THE GIRLS

In Sweden, design is wearing its politics on its sleeve. For evidence one need look no further than the newly founded independent platform and commercial marketplace No Sir, created by Terese Alstin (she is also one half of the team behind Hövding, the Airbag for Cyclists helmet that has forever changed commuting safely by bike). No Sir seeks to level and diversify the male-dominant atmosphere that permeates the design world, offering a home to over 50 established and emerging female creatives whose work involves furniture, textile, jewellery, and product design – and then some. No-sir.com



LIKE THE OLD MASTERS

Chinese moso bamboo may not seem like the obvious choice for Danish furniture makers, who have traditionally preferred local materials such as birch and oak. At Danish We Do Wood, bamboo is, however, the perfect material due to its durability and environmental benefits – and this certainly does not make the shapes less Scandinavian. The latest addition to the company's small and exclusive collection of furniture designed by visual-artist-cum-designer, Sebastian Jørgensen, is an ode to Danish master Kaare Klint (1888-1954) and his legendary *Safari Chair*. Equally humble, practical – and simply irresistible. Wedowood.dk



GATHER YOUR THOUGHTS

Unlike your phone, a good notebook will not lose its charge and is always ready when you are. Copenhagen-based stationery brand Kartotek promotes this idea offering its smartly designed line of notebooks, notepads, greeting cards, and calendars made with the highest quality Scandinavian paper. The functionality of the line is enhanced by a simple and thoughtfully crafted aesthetic that you will definitely want to write home about. Kartotekcph.dk

