

MONOCLE

Salone del Mobile

Spring 2026
A Monocle Special Edition

Delivering fresh insights from the world's premier furniture and design trade fair – plus shows and exhibitions across Milan.

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Top tables

The Lombard capital's best new hospitality openings.



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Monocle takes over Balay bar and restaurant for Milan Design Week.



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Colour theory

Italy's Mutina teams up with the Josef & Anni Albers Foundation.



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Expert views

Fresh takes from Miminat Shodeinde and other designers in the know.



FURNITURE / TOKYO

From Tokyo with love

"Sustainability is about timeless elegance," says Fumie Shibata when Monocle meets the Japanese designer in her Tokyo studio to learn about the expansion of her collections for Flexform. The work, which includes furniture and homeware, will be on show during this year's Milan Design Week. "That's a philosophy that I share with Flexform. It's about creating objects that are cherished across generations, fostering a deep emotional bond that transcends time."

Shibata's first partnership with the brand, the Eri armchair, blended structural integrity with a soft, sculptural form. The effect is a merging of Italian manufacturing prowess with pared-back Japanese aesthetics. Shibata hopes that the combination ticks the boxes of timeless elegance. And it's something that her new releases for 2026 – a collection called Soreto – should possess too, offering an honesty in terms of materiality and form.

"Good design requires taking a long-term perspective and having the intelligence to use materials appropriately by deeply understanding their inherent properties," says Shibata. "While physical durability is essential, it's equally vital to possess aesthetic durability – the quality of a design that remains relevant and beloved for decades, regardless of trends."

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EXHIBITION / DENMARK

From the archives

While Milan is arguably the design capital of the world (at least for one week in April), Copenhagen is hot on the Italian city's heels. But rather than compete, why not join forces? That's exactly what's happening at the Triennale Milano this year. The museum is hosting *Fredericia: A Chronicle of Danish Design*, an exhibition honouring the legacy of one of the Nordics' leading furniture firms. Monocle gets a preview.

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Shaped by modern living



Fisher &
Paykel



Monocle

Our relationship with food is evolving. Seasonal ingredients are replacing ultra-processed fare, globalisation is sharpening culinary identities, and a renewed appetite for connection is softening our culture of convenience.

Our changing world

These nuances are reshaping domestic life – and the modern luxury home must respond. “We speak about our products being engineered for life,” says Fisher & Paykel CEO Daniel Witten-Hannah. “It starts with a deep understanding of what people really need in the home.” Since 1934, the brand has delivered design-led solutions

to these evolving needs. Its design philosophy centres on the idea of the “social kitchen” as the heart of the home. “Think of it as a space that supports mid-week life – where you are seeking speed, flexibility and convenience – as well as a space that can adapt to weekend occasions, where you can slow down, cook well and gather around the table with family and friends,” says Witten-Hannah.

Led by design

Debuting at EuroCucina during Salone del Mobile 2026, Fisher & Paykel's State of the Art Collection introduces next-generation Series 11 appliances for cooking, cooling, wine care, dishwashing and fabric care. Defined by modular minimalism and precise 2mm flush transitions, the collection is conceived with architectural clarity and elegant materiality in mind, all informed by the company's home landscape. “Growing up in New Zealand, you develop an appreciation for the way different elements in nature exist in harmony,” says Witten-Hannah.

Innovations for life

At Fisher & Paykel, design means more than just aesthetics. “My time in product development has shaped the organisation I want to build,” says Witten-Hannah, “one that is curious, life-centred and committed to using design to create better solutions for the people who live with our appliances every day.” Integrated Column Refrigerators use variable temperature zones to keep different ingredients at their best for longer, while the Fabric Care Cabinet will revolutionise garment care – refreshing, deodorising and smoothing to reduce reliance on dry cleaning. “We have taken our deep understanding of food and fibre science and combined it with accurate sensing and machine learning to deliver precise control of the key mechanical systems that shape performance and results for the user,” says Witten-Hannah. While design aficionados can admire the collection at its Salone del Mobile installation *Nature – Ritual*, the best way to experience their enduring quality is to live with them. “Trust is built over time,” he adds.