

Superyacht

INTERIOR DESIGN

EXTERIOR SPACE

CREATIVITY AND ARCHITECTURE



DESIGN

CASE STUDY

Michael Leach and studio partner Mark Smith talk about their approach to yacht design.
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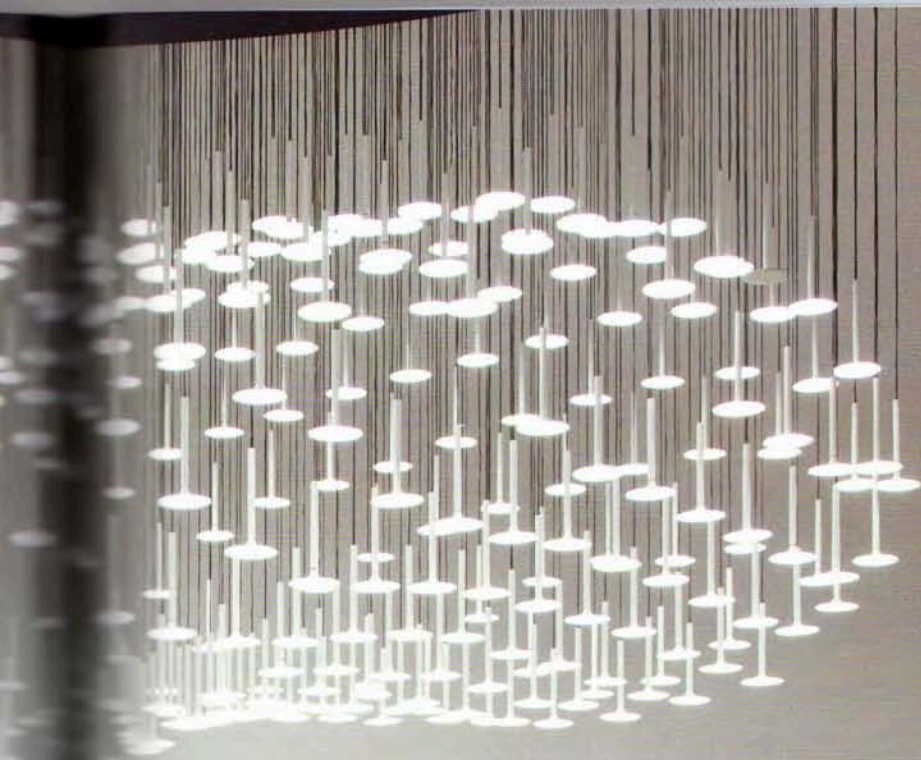
Jamie Edmiston, the new owner of Linley, reveals his plans for the future of the British brand.
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SALONE INTERNAZIONALE DEL MOBILE

17-22 APRIL 2012

April was once again time for that global benchmark event in the furnishing industry: the Milan Furniture Fair. The design industry has had to grapple with an ongoing euro zone crisis of late, but rather than giving in to doom and gloom many of the sectors represented at this year's *Saloni* took a design/production approach to the situation by adapting supply to a demand that has not only shrunk, but altered. For example, there was a noticeable revisiting of past catalogues, with an intelligent re-uptake of some of the more enduring pieces. One consequence of this phenomenon has been the reappraisal of the designer figure as a 'media star'. As usual, top names of the design world were heavily represented, but the emphasis has subtly shifted from the person to the product, along with increased input from relatively unknown designers.

The ongoing recession meant Italian visitors to the main event at the Rho exhibition site were slightly down on last year, but all the other categories saw an increase in numbers, with 1,255 trade exhibitors, 188,579 overseas visitors (out of a total of 292,370) and a net exhibit space in excess of 143,000sqm. The *Fuorisalone*, centred in and around Via Tortona, also saw an expansion of venues with scores of events that animated the entire city.

SYD was on hand to bring you our choice of Six of the Best products from design week in Milan.



BRONZE KAMINI EZRALOW

The new Bronze collection from fine furniture maker Orsi is designed by Kamini Ezralow, formerly managing director of Intarya and responsible for the award-winning interior aboard *Celestial Hope*, the 47m Heesen launched in 2008. Her latest work reflects the same clean yet classic lines and rich materials that feature aboard the superyacht and other interior projects, such as the penthouses in Dubai's World Trade Centre. Ezralow has collaborated with Orsi (based in the Como region north of Milan renowned for its furniture craftsmen) for several years and when the high-end manufacturer was looking to expand its range, it naturally approached the London-based designer for inspiration. The collection includes several major pieces, all distinguished by Ezralow's fascination with Art Deco forms and detailing. An American walnut credenza, for example, has a lacquered crackle finish and a raised diamond-shaped fascia that echoes the legs of the sycamore dining table stained a deep grey; the headboard of the double bed is composed of interlaced

bands of cashmere from Loro Piana; an oriental-style screen is hand-painted with a blossom motif by Italian *trompe l'oeil* artist Piero Centofanti; a large sideboard has a counter of varnished parchment. What connects them all is the brushed bronze detailing—hence the collection's name.

Of particular note are the dining chairs, pictured here, that also feature a lacquered parchment finish, with bronze feet and seats upholstered in a pale gold, cotton-silk mélange from Donghia. Suitable for formal dining at home or aboard a yacht, the Art Deco styling is teasingly discreet, while the subtle parchment finish is apparent only when studied from certain angles and in a certain light.

"What I try to instil in all of my projects is a journey of discovery," says Ezralow. "That's what I love about design: it's only when you spend time with a piece of furniture and start using it that you discover its hidden qualities."