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THE ARTFUL LIFE

Mint Milano

The cultural cognoscenti descend upon the Italian city to witness firsthand the otherworldly installations and stylish collections making their debut during Design Week

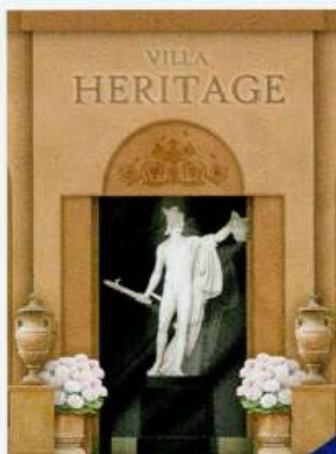


CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: A terrace at the hotel Casa Brera overlooks the Duomo. Villa Borsani, one of the Alcova sites. Furry Sparrow by Buccellati.

In April, Milan transforms into a massive design celebration headlined by Salone del Mobile. Held April 8 through 13 at Rho Fiera Milano, the long-standing trade show's 63rd edition will be chockablock with cutting-edge furniture, lighting, and homewares while also debuting some exciting new initiatives. At the fair, interior designer Pierre-Yves Rochon will present *Villa Hérédité*, a sensory installation re-creating the resplendence of a European villa. In the city center, at medieval Castello Sforzesco, polymath creative Robert Wilson will reinterpret Michelangelo's unfinished masterpiece *Rondanini Pietà* through a staggering blend of light, sound, and movement.

There's also a trove of remarkable works to discover around town. Alcova, the nomadic showcase of emerging talents curated by Valentina Ciuffi and Joseph Grima, will once again occupy the historic Villa Borsani and Villa Bagatti Valsecchi, as well as two new venues. Helmed by gallerist doyenne Nina Yashar, Nilufar Depot marks its tenth anniversary with mind-bending metalworks by Fosbury. Meanwhile, Buccellati will present an immersive exhibit celebrating the natural world with its most iconic silver collections.

The charming neighborhood of Brera sates the appetite for Italian elegance. No itinerary is complete without an outing to Palazzo Molteni, an 18th-century neoclassical treasure restored by Vincent Van Duysen, where Molteni&C's refined furnishings look perfectly at home. A jaunt along the district's charming cobblestone streets leads to an array of showrooms—Armani/Casa, Roche Bobois, Poltrona Frau—and Patricia Urquiola's five-star Casa Brera, a Luxury Collection hotel that's gaining acclaim as one of Milan's most rarefied new stays. An evening aperitif at Trattoria del Ciumbia or Caruso Nuovo Bistrot, both designed by local talent Dimorestudio, serves to remind that Milan's future is deeply entwined with its history. —RYAN WADDOUPS



The 60th-anniversary edition of Gio Ponti's Dezza chair for Poltrona Frau. ABOVE: *Villa Hérédité*, an installation by Pierre-Yves Rochon during Salone del Mobile.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: COURTESY OF MARIOTT INTERNATIONAL; PIERGIORGIO SORCETTI; COURTESY OF POLTRONA FRAU; COURTESY OF PIERRE-YVES ROCHON; COURTESY OF BUCCELLATI