



PAST TO PRESENT

Modernist Mies

On March 26, martini glasses were raised, and the "Happy Birthday" chorus rang out to honor Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, who would have been 129 years old March 27. The Mies van der Rohe Society and Knoll Furniture sponsored a party at Mies-designed S.R. Crown Hall at the Illinois Institute of Technology, which included a judging of five showrooms by Chicago's top design and architecture talents-many of whom are IIT alumni, such as Stephen Burks, Katherine Darnstadt and Todd Snapp—inspired by the timeless design of Mies furniture. His Barcelona chair remains as classic and relevant today as when he first designed it in 1929 as part of an exhibition for the German Pavilion at the Barcelona International Exposition, but there are many more iconic chairs to his credit; for the Show Rooms celebration, each designer was given three to design a room around. If you are looking for your own toast to Mies, there is a limited-edition poster series available through the Mies van der Rohe Society (miessociety.org). And as all proud city-dwellers know, he is one of the most influential architects of the modernist movement, responsible for some of Chicago's iconic buildings and still influencing aspiring architects and designers today with his mantra of "less is more." We'll cheers to that! -LH

THE LITTLE THINGS

Burning Question

What is your latest design obsession?



"One of our latest obsessions are trims. Throw out your old notion of traditional tassels and beading commonly thought of when talking about 'dressing up' a space, and trade it in for a contemporary trim such as leather. Design, after all, is all about the details."

-BRYNN OLSON, BRYNN OLSON DESIGN GROUP, 1229 N. BRANCH ST., 312.915.0925, BRYNNOLSON.COM

SENSATIONAL SEATING

Alfresco Styling

This seat needs no introduction: The **Tiempo lounge** boldly announces itself, with its mega-scale, kicky canted lines and sassy striped upholstery. An exclusive by Jorge Pensi Design Studio in Barcelona for Janus et Cie, the generous frame is constructed of powder-coated aluminum, bolstered visually with teak, and sits on stainless-steel legs. Shown in a bandeau pinstripe look in coral, it's superfresh for spring and summer. \$6,729, Janus et Cie, 222 W. Merchandise Mart Plaza, Ste. 1876, 312.822.0460, janusetcie.com –EM



Modern Shade

If there is one country that knows how to deal with the scorching sun in style, it is Australia. Case in point: the new canopy from Mamagreen. Known for its philosophy of sustainability, the company's new canopy features durable and recyclable Batyline mesh fabric for the shades and a frame that has been melded from aluminum scraps. But it's the modern lines and portability that make it a standout for us; it can provide shade in any part of your yard or garden and creates an intimate, covered spot for outdoor dinner parties. Price upon request, 222 Merchandise Mart Plaza, Ste. 1519, 312.222.1132, mamagreen.com.au (to the trade) –AM



Net Effect

Conversations might turn deliciously devious in Janus et Cie's new Dragnet lounge chair. This piece is fashioned from a powder-coated steel frame, with the showstopping red seat and back handwoven from hardy Sunbrella acrylic fabric. For those who like to spin their webs inside, the Dragnet is available in an indoor version as well.

\$5,753, 222 W. Merchandise Mart Plaza, Floor 14, janusetcie.com –DL





Material World

What are the latest trends in landscaping?

"Wood flooring and products that simulate the look of wood. We are seeing more wood grains in paving materials, porcelain, stone and barnyard planking that replicate and coordinate with flooring used inside. The indoor-outdoor room that unifies a home's interior and exterior spaces creates a customized backyard retreat. We are incorporating fire features, and the latest in outdoor appliances and cooking technology, more and more."

Michael Schmechtig, president, Schmechtig Landscapes, 20860 W. Indian Creek Road, Mundelein, 847.566.1233, schmechtig landscapes.com



DESIGN LIBRARY Get ideas and inspiration from penthouses, terraces and rooftop gardens around the world in the new tome from teNeues. Living Roofs, \$65, teneues.com (available June).

Game On

Restoration Hardware has partnered with L.A.-based artist James de Wulf to create a sleek outdoor table-tennis table that's perfect for summer. Made of cast concrete, the piece has an industrial aesthetic and can withstand most weather conditions with ease. Of course, the table isn't just for looks—its high-performance slab-top surface and full table-tennis kit make for a fun addition to any backyard. \$7,995, Restoration Hardware, 938 W. North Ave., restorationhardware.com—JC



New Angle

Part sculpture, part function, the Lampara Piramide gives outdoor lighting a whole new artful category. Designed by José Gandía-Blasco (current creative director of his family's business, the Spanish design company Gandia Blasco) the lightweight, portable lamps are made of weather-resistant polyethylene with a fluorescent bulb, meaning they withstand hot and cold temperatures. The lamps are innovative, which is not surprising given that José designed an outdoor furniture collection for his own summer home that proceeded to put his generational family company of blanket-makers on the design map (it now counts Patricia Urquiola, Mario Ruiz, Stefan Diez and Nendo, to name a few, as regular designers). An extra-long cord allows the Piramide to be placed randomly in your outdoor area; we like it lining a path to your entertaining or beach zone. The 6-foot-tall slender triangular shapes are best in multiples on a large lot, but they add a cool glow of dimension to any modern outdoor space. \$1,250, Orange Skin, 223 W. Erie St., 312.335.1033, orangeskin.com -AM

