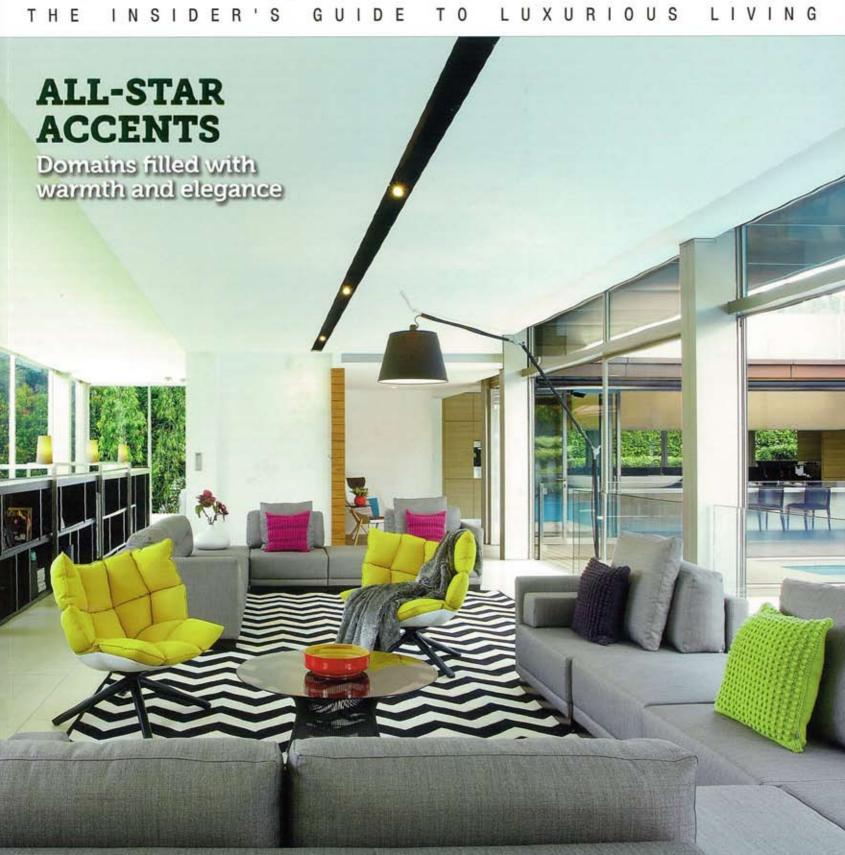
SINGAPORE TATLER TATLES



The fascination with wire furniture continued well into the '60s, culminating in American architect Warren Platner's seminal Platner Collection for Knoll in 1966. The iconic pieces were created by welding hundreds of curved steel rods to circular frames, which simultaneously served as both structure and ornament. "I thought, why separate support from the object? Just make it all one thing," said Platner. In so doing, Platner captured the spirit of the times, as a dramatic shift in cultural values paved the way for a more expressive form of modernism.

Today, wire furniture continues to be as popular as ever. It could be the result of a prolonged recession in the Eurozone economies, political uncertainty across the Arab world, or Chinese austerity drives. Whatever the reason, the global mood seems to favour designs that are minimal, honest and logical, much like in the postwar years.

At the domestic level, wire furniture is also seen as practical. "With wire furniture, visual bulk is minimised," says Eileen Tan, Assistant Marketing Manager at Space Furniture, "It therefore 'melts' into the space around it compared to non see-through pieces," adds Emelie Heden, Marketing Manager of Dream Interiors. As the world gradually becomes more urbanised, land use intensifies, and homes get smaller, this transparency makes more sense.





boast wire construction. Most significant of all is Herman Miller's Wireframe Sofa Group, designed by Sam Hecht and Kim Colin of London's Industrial Facility. The sofa plays on the company's longstanding use of wire framing with a single-body steel wire frame and removable sofa cushions. The designers also incorporated a trampoline-like suspension system - developed by Herman Miller for the healthcare

compelling reasons to support the use

of wire furniture, it is no surprise that

a sizeable number of designs this year

Traffic Sofa defies

convention by pairing a wire frame with well-padded cushions, giving rise to an intriguing contrast between the lightness and svelteness of the frame and the geometric volumes of the cushions. Arketipo also makes effective use of this contrast in its Athena Chair, with a shapely, voluminous seat and seat back poised on a delicate wire base that seems to pay tribute to the Eames' Eiffel Tower.

Bonaldo's Octa Table appears to use several Eiffel Towers in its base, which comes in either white or matte anthracite-painted metal, chromed finish, or black nickel. It

> supports a top that comes in various wood or glass finishes. The company's

Orion Coffee Table, designed by Singaporean Jarrod Lim, consists of steel wires painted white or grey, with a treated glass or laminated top. Finally, Janus et Cie's Whisk collection presents the wire base in a new light an outdoor setting.

As for how to work wire furniture into a scheme, Proof Living's Marketing Executive Vanessa Quek suggests balancing the masculine appearance with "more feminine elements like furniture with softer edges". Maintenance is also quite minimal, says Space Furniture's Tan, adding that weekly cleaning with a gentle detergent is all that's required. H

WHERE TO GO

Knoll and String **DREAM INTERIORS** 456 River Valley Road Tel: 6235 0220 www.dream-int.com

JANUS et Cie and Vitra SPACE ASIA HUB 77 Bencoolen Street Tel: 6415 0000 www.spacefurniture. com.sg

Arketipo, Herman Miller and Magis XTRA PARK MALL #01-01 Park Mall, 9 Penang Road Tel: 6336 0688 www.xtra.com.sg

Bonaldo

XZQT HOME 8 Pandan Crescent, #01-05 UE Tech Park Tel: 6774 8031 www.xzqt.com.sq