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ISSN 1561-781-5



HK\$80  
RMB80  
US\$11



# SALONE INTERNAZIONALE DEL MOBILE 2019

Milan, Italy

This 58th edition of the world's most famous furniture fair left no one disappointed. As the centrepiece of a week of design-related events in the northern Italian city of commerce and style, *Salone* lived up to its vaunted reputation as the foremost place to study the best furniture in the world. Always bridging commerce with art, *Salone* is a wonderland for architects and interior designers, presenting the highest-quality work, cutting-edge products, technological innovation, timeless craftsmanship, and ample examples of the high art of furniture-making. It is organised under three categories: Classic, Design and xLux, the latter essentially marrying the first two. Thousands of new products are unveiled here, some as clever tweaks of familiar forms and materials, others as genuinely groundbreaking originals. Even the most established of brands in this field need to constantly refresh and innovate, which keeps *Salone* brimming with excitement.

Visitors in the hundreds of thousands meander (or hasten) through the halls in mixtures of awe, lust, appreciation and, occasionally, cynicism. Naturally, in a show with something for everyone, not everything pleases all eyes. The comprehensive scope of *Salone* is almost mind-boggling; truly a phenomenon that has taken on a growth-life-cycle of its own. It owns its place on most design calendars, and activity in the booths ranges from casual scanning to serious deal-brokering. Side events, seminars, lectures and presentations round out the week, providing foot-soothing respites and sidebars and chances to pause and digest. The biggest names erect booths that are like buildings, and you needed to queue up to get in, sometimes waiting for serious amounts of email-catchup time. Once inside, you were swept along by the general throng, constantly photo-bombing without meaning to. Occasionally, it all felt like pure chaos. But the celebrities here were always the chairs, sofas, tables and cabinets so lovingly framed, pedestalled and lighted. The Oscars of furniture?

There are almost 200 countries typically represented at *Salone* – in other words, any place that makes a stick of furniture – and there is simply no other event in this category that even comes close to Milan's. Overwhelming? Absolutely. Essential? No question. Here are some highlights from 2019:

