

## Lounge living

Explore the latest looks for the living room – from the exhibition halls of imm Cologne and Maison & Objet.

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## Design Formula

Koti Sofa by Form Us With Love for Him



SCOTT 1235 Sofa by Ludovica+Roberto Palomba for Zanotta

**L**ounge, sitting room, living area... the name of the room may vary but its function remains the same: to bring people together to relax.

The most successful designs draw people in with a combination of comfort and creative spark.

“The living room, after the kitchen, is the one area that allows you to express your personality,” says interior designer Amelia Carter. “Try and stick to one clear aesthetic, whether that’s classic, contemporary or a colour.

“One trend for 2017 that I have seen coming through is faux finishes on walls

and murals,” Carter continues. “Hand-painted wallpapers also continue to be on-trend but the subject matter/designs are becoming more abstract.”

The key is to combine looks carefully for easy updating. Layer textures and materials for a multi-layered approach, or add patterns to inject personality. “They can clash but make sure they look cohesive,” advises Carter. “Smaller accessories can then complete the look. From opulent mirrors and decadent side tables to eclectic ornaments and striking artwork, accessories can bring the room together.”



Philippe Starck's *Cinemascope* armchair for Driade



Space Copenhagen designed the *Fly* lounge chair for &Tradition



Piero Lissoni debuted an armchair version of his *Dumas* sofa for Living Divani at imm Cologne



Piero Lissoni

## SEAT SUCCESS

Is there any other piece of living room furniture that has proved its worth more than the sofa? The linchpin of the living room, the sofa is where we retreat to when we want to unwind. That makes comfort a prerequisite. Why suffer in the name of style? Why indeed, ask Norwegian design duo Anderssen & Voll, who describe their *Compose* sofa for Muuto as a "sculptural study" in how to compose a "commodious yet sophisticated" sofa using the simplest of elements: seat, back and armrests. Their solution? "We added extra depth to the seat while maintaining a pure and elegant overall look, allowing *Compose* to induce everyday bliss."

Of course, comfort is not limited to sofas. Signe Bindslev Henriksen and Peter Bundgaard Rützou, the founders of Space Copenhagen, designed the *Fly* lounge chair for &Tradition with "ultimate comfort" in mind (cue loose cushions that you can arrange to suit your personal preferences). *Fly* looks good, too, paying tribute to a Nordic aesthetic with its slatted back, handcrafted solid oak frame and organic shape.

"We like the idea that comfort comes first," says &tradition brand manager Martin Kornbek Hansen. "The *Fly* chair is a modern design that encompasses classic woodworking techniques, drawing on the beauty of natural materials, [and is] destined to age gracefully over time."

Philippe Starck agrees that comfort is crucial; life-changing even. Of his *Cinemascope* armchair for Driade, the French designer says: "If all presidents and kings in the world had an exceptionally comfortable armchair like *Cinemascope*, can you imagine how their ideas, conversations and decisions would change? *Cinemascope* is the armchair that can save the world."

Starck and Space Copenhagen are not the only designers to focus on comfort. Piero Lissoni has launched an armchair version of his popular *Dumas* sofa for Living Divani. Inviting you to linger for longer, the low backrest with its soft cushion is connected to a gently curved armrest in a gesture of simplicity that epitomises the style of the designer.

## THE SUM OF MANY PARTS

Modular sofas aren't exactly new, but they remain popular while the trend for open-plan living continues. The 2016 *Kerman* sofa by Philipp Mainzer and Farah Ebrahimi for e15 is an example: it comprises ten modules that can be combined to create many different combinations.

e15 is in excellent company. At imm Cologne (15–21 January 2017), Baxter dedicated much of its stand to spacious modular designs, most notably *Miami Roll* by Paola Navone and *Viktor* by Draga & Aurel. Fellow Italian exhibitors were on board with the modular approach too: Porada's

*Kirk* sofa by Carlo Ballabio and Philippe Starck's *Wow* sofa for Driade were both on show.

However, our favourite modular collection is *Hoff* by Norwegian design duo Morten & Jonas for French brand Petite Friture. It comprises a pair of stools and armchairs that can be combined to create a sofa or used as standalone pieces. "We like to make and create objects that make people happy," say the designers. "We are driven by the joy of creating interesting and beautiful objects that we hope will catch people's attention."



The *Compose* sofa was designed for Muuto by Norwegian design duo Anderssen & Voll



The *Viktor* sofa by Draga & Aurel for Baxter



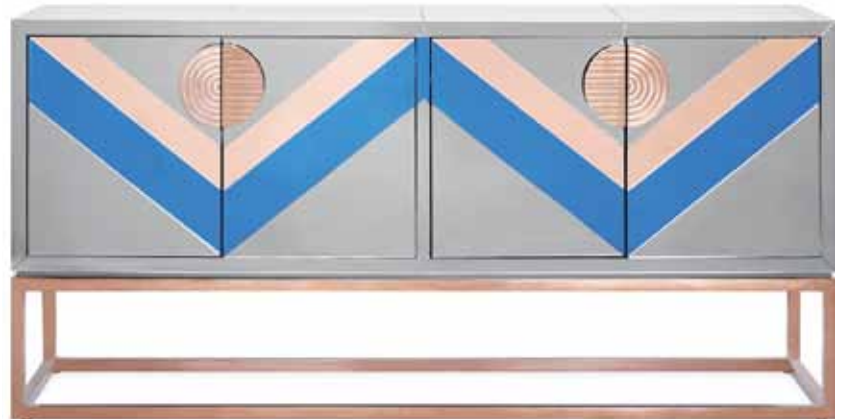
Porada showcased its *Kirk* sofa by Carlo Ballabio at imm Cologne



Blend Collection Joi bench by Meridiani. Available at Caspiou



Nathalie Teugels' Hang It table for Serax



Jonathan Adler's *Nouvelle* credenza features a sunset pattern inspired by pop art

## SUPPORTING ACTS

Where there is a sofa, there is usually a side table or coffee table, and the latest arrivals are essential acquisitions for those with a penchant for innovation. The Sax side table by Christoph Böniger for Classicon is an excellent case in point. Perfect for small living spaces, Sax features a scissor frame fixed to elements that can be moved along the table's edge, thus enabling the piece to be transformed from a low side table into a high serving trolley.

Underlying the 'necessity is the mother of invention' sentiment is Nathalie Teugels' *Hang It* table for Serax. A side table with an integrated magazine hanger, it was inspired by Teugels' love of magazines and her frustration at not having dedicated storage for them.

Certainly, new ways of living demand new design solutions. That's the philosophy behind Zeitraum's *Plaisir* table by German duo Claudia Small

and Jorg Kurschner of Formstelle, which comprises a low, three-legged solid wooden frame supporting a removable top that can be used as a tray for serving tea and coffee.

Menu agrees with this philosophy. Its *Cage* table by Stockholm studio Form Us With Love combines a beautiful marble top with slender steel legs that cross over each other to form a cage. Position it next to your sofa or favourite armchair and fill the cage with magazines, art books or blankets.

The responsibility of hiding storage in the living room often falls to the sideboard (or credenza, as it is also known). For the best in the business, check out Jonathan Adler's spring-summer collection. Standout pieces include the *Antwerp* credenza (think French '50s limed furniture reimagined in a 21st-Century idiom) and the *Nouvelle* credenza, which features a pared-down sunset pattern inspired by pop art super graphics and Mother Nature herself.



Scatter cushions from eno Studio's *Terrazzo* collection



*Hidden Vases* by Rotterdam-based designer Chris Kabel for valerie objects



*CIRCUS* blue coffee table by COLONEL



Geranium collection from Missoni Home



*MINGX* Armchair by Driade

## ADD ACCESSORIES

If you prefer to reflect your personality through smaller pieces, look at accessories such as the scatter cushions from eno Studio's *Terrazzo* collection, the *Braid* double candleholder in resin by Zaha Hadid, or a pair of Phare tea lights by Tomas Krai for Nude. The latter comprise a wide-based glass cylinder into which a gold cone-shaped tea light-holder is placed.

We particularly like the quirky *Hidden Vases* on the valerie objects stand at Maison & Objet. They started out as a research project by Rotterdam-based designer Chris Kabel and resulted in three models in metal, glass and ceramic.

Another highlight at Maison & Objet was Swarovski, which brought its

Atelier Swarovski *Home* collection. The standout piece was *Crystal Vase*, designed by Aldo Bakker in blue or black diamond, and which complements the existing range of abstract modular vases in crystal, marble and pink onyx.

Inspiration for the floor was found at the Stepevi stand where three new collections were on show: *Lace*, *Blossom* and *Luxxx*. *Blossom* caught our eye, inspired by the buds of May and the rebirth of nature. As with every Stepevi collection, the colours have been chosen to represent certain ideas; *Blossom*'s Titanium Grey & Dark Gold colourway suggests a golden dawn breaking through the dark of night. An embossing technique is applied during the tufting process that creates a thick and tactile pile.



IMAGE COURTESY OF THE ARTIST AND LEILA HELLER GALLERY, DUBAI

'Great Wall of Sand' by Gordon Cheung, 2016



Phare tea lights by Tomas Krai for Nude



Blossom rug in titanium grey and dark gold by Stepevi

## ART IN THE LIVING ROOM


Art sets the mood and atmosphere of a space and creates a talking point. "I cannot visualise any home without the added element of some kind of art, be it a major work or inexpensive photographs or prints," says Leila Heller of Leila Heller Gallery. "Artwork from any period enriches the atmosphere of any dwelling."

Works of art need to fit the size of the room but there's no need to match them to the colour of the walls or furniture. "My recommendation is that you love the art you buy and go with your gut," says Leila. "I also recommend that you do your research about the reputation of the source you are buying from, be that a gallery, auction, private dealer or art fair."

Salma Shaheem, joint venture partner and head of Middle Eastern markets at The Fine Art Group, agrees. She also points out that your research needs to cover the history of the piece. "This is very important for any genre, especially when we look at historical references for genres of the past (i.e. impressionist and modern art and post-war)," she says.

The provenance of the work and its condition also need to be on your checklist. "This is especially relevant in secondary market acquisitions; the photo may not always be a true representation," Salma adds.

Don't forget to look to the future as well as the past. "If you're acquiring an artwork from the primary market and it's by an emerging artist, it's important to know what major collections they appear in," Salma continues. "Have they been; or will there be any future acquisitions by museums or institutions?"

Salma suggests working with an art advisor if you're new to buying art. "Advisors are equipped with the knowledge and network to make an informed decision," she explains. 



The Cage table by Stockholm studio Form Us With Love for Menu



Salma Shaheem



### DESIGN SOURCES

andtradition.com  
baxter.com  
driade.it; tel: (04) 3846746  
e15.com  
enostudio.net; tel: (04) 282 4333  
gordoncheung.com  
jonathanadler.com  
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menu.as  
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serax.com  
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CONTACT NUMBERS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

William / 1330 sofa by Zanotta