

# SLEEPER

GLOBAL HOTEL DESIGN

JULY | AUGUST 2017



## Hotel Mono

Singapore's traditional shophouses transform into a minimalist's dream

## The Ned

Soho House and Sydell Group breathe new life into Lutyens' Midland Bank masterpiece

## The Oberoi Beach Resort

Piero Lissoni works his magic in the coastal wetlands of Ajman



# Rediscover and rejoice

## FURNITURE

From cyclical design to neutral tones to the return of the classics, furniture sees a shift towards earth-friendly design.

Following this year's Milan Design Week, the cyclical nature of furniture design trends became ever more apparent. Whether this be a brand promoting its sustainable measures, or the reintroduction of old classics, it is apparent that the style conscious are becoming waste-conscious too.

Circular production – upcycling, reusing leftover materials, reducing waste – became a reinvigorated conversation. American manufacturer Emeco launched its 1 Inch collection, which sees Jasper Morrison designs created using recycled aluminium for the frames and reclaimed or recycled materials for the surface. Speaking about the collection, Gregg Buchbinder, CEO, Emeco commented: Together, with rigour and struggle we achieved an exceptionally good chair: simple, utilitarian, multifunctional and environmentally sound."

Environmentally sound is a key phrase, gripping designers and specifiers alike as they seek to complete projects with conscience. Further, the added tick of sustainability down to the details allows a hotel to proffer an edge over competition.

An alternative to upcycling is the reintroduction of existing designs, as seen with Fritz Hansen's Oksen lounge chair. Originally created in 1966 by Arne Jacobsen, the piece has, like many of Jacobsen's creations, stood the test of time and is set to experience a second wave. Perhaps designed as a counter-reaction to the common perception of him as a designer focused on soft, sculptural forms, Oksen – translating as bull in Danish – presents strong, angular lines. Commenting, Christian Andersen, Head of Design at Fritz Hansen stated: "The precise and almost geometric design of the chair is

unique, demonstrating that Jacobsen dared more than most others at the time. Both fascinating and commanding, the Oksen is a true classic." The piece is not yet released, but will be available come October 2017.

Perhaps a reflection of the recyclical movement, colours and materials also showed restraint. Stone acted as anchor in a number of colour schemes, while the introduction of greige received mixed reviews. Italian furniture brand Henge debuted a number of new finishes including nappa leather in a range of earthy tones, ranging between rust and tobacco or charcoal grey.

Following the circular trend, albeit another strain, sofas with rounded edges and soft, bowed lines became the standout pieces in Milan. Sancal's La Isla, designed by Swedish studio Note, presents seductive curves and soft upholstery, aiming to appeal to guests seeking refuge in the clamour of a hotel lobby.

Meanwhile, Flexform's Este features soft lines, large armrests and oversized cushions for optimum comfort. With the intention to create a place to gather and evoke a feeling of cosiness, XXL sofas have become deeper – Living Divani now provides a sofa with a 48-inch seat depth – exuding a feeling of deep relaxation. Neutral tones and simple lines prevent bulkiness, while natural textures such as linen, wood, stone and wool satisfy specifier's need for natural, sustainable production that will stand the test of time.

Concluding, Buchbinder of Emeco simplifies: "The world doesn't need more chairs, they just need better chairs."

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**LALIQUE**  
Vibration

Designed by Pierre-Yves Rochon with Lalique, Vibration is a dresser complete with crystal, gold leaf, bronze and marble exterior. A tribute to crystal, the design demonstrates the versatility of the material when in its molten state, as it becomes emerging waves of light that deliver an inherent purity. Meanwhile the interiors of the dresser feature blackened pear wood and black leather.

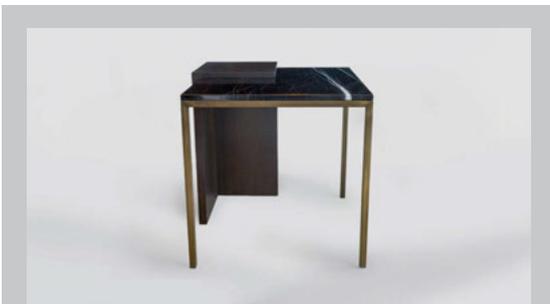
[www.lalique.com](http://www.lalique.com)



**CURTIS FURNITURE**  
Bespoke

Demonstrating its bespoke offering, Curtis Furniture has recently designed a custom sleek, contemporary double wardrobe. Finished with a veneer grain design, the patterns run in contrasting directions and meet with a brass laminate inlay running seamlessly across the front. The freestanding unit houses a walnut veneer interior with niagra green laminate back panel, showcasing a range of complex schemes and textures.

[www.curtisfurniture.co.uk](http://www.curtisfurniture.co.uk)



**LITTLEFAIR LONDON**  
South Bank Collection

Littlefair London has launched its South Bank Collection, inspired by the history and architecture of London's South Bank. The Lexington Table is one of seven consoles, bedside and occasional tables that make up the collection, all featuring modernist, minimal design without compromising functionality. The elegant piece features Noir St. Laurent marble top resting on a matte, lacquered antique brass frame with an integrated dark timber panel.

[www.jolittlefairlondon.com](http://www.jolittlefairlondon.com)



**GERVASONI**  
InOut 630

InOut 630, designed by Paola Navone, has a retro charm. Made using handwoven kubu rattan, the design evokes the traditional image of a bergère chair yet with unexpected lines and proportions. The back is 120cm high and protects while letting air and light filter through its woven material. Meanwhile the frame is made using aluminium, complete with aged teak feet.

[www.gervasoni1882.it](http://www.gervasoni1882.it)