

Peel back the layers

By Marie Le Fort

Layering is a quirky design trend that mimics shapes found in nature



Pipes of peace (left)

Designer Hervé Van der Straeten creates unique objects with a stylish retro feel, using materials such as precious wood, rare marble, brass, bronze, lacquer and parchment. For his new Pipe Show console, he piled up tubes of polished golden brass to create a glowing piece of furniture that's part sculpture and part architecture.

Visit www.vanderstraeten.fr

Design couture (above)

German designer Hermann August Weizenegger's Digital Couture project encompasses a series of objects that showcase thin layers of materials. Highlights from the collection include the Erosio chair, the Muse design sculpture, the Cloud lamp and a dress designed with numerous, individual, lamella-like components.

Visit www.hermannaugustweizenegger.de



Slice it up (left)

Danish designer Mathias Bengtsson likes to slice things up. His new, aptly named Slice Chair, first drawn by hand and later modeled in clay, combines organic shapes with cutting-edge technology. “It was constructed with the same adeptness an architect would employ to create a topological map of the landscape, evoking the illusion of a piece of furniture cut away from a cliff face and scaled to human proportions,” Bengtsson explains. Visit www.bengtssondesign.com



Rain into a pool (left)

Architects Dominique Jakob + Brendan MacFarlane have released a line of furniture carved out of pine wood for Marcel By. The objects – a shelf in two models and a coffee table, respectively named Rain and Pool – have a repetitive, geometric pattern. “We wanted to create sculptural pieces to play with solid and empty spaces as if the wood had been carved by erosion,” says Jakob. Visit www.marcelby.fr

Smell the cork (right)

Carved out of cork, Tomas Kral’s Plug series offers a novel usage of the material, which up until now had generally been thought of mostly as a bottle stopper. The Slovakian designer has transformed cork into objects such as a lamp, a fruit bowl and a container. “The idea was to mill 3D objects out of 2D drawings,” Kral says. Visit www.tomaskral.ch



Truly psychotic (left)

As its name suggests, Hervé Van der Straeten’s Psychose console is jagged and psychotic: “It’s all wavy, and you might think you’re hallucinating when you look at it, hence its name,” says the designer. Made of composite material and fiberglass lacquered in red, Psychose zigzags through space, even distorting its surroundings at times. Only 40 pieces of the limited edition console have been produced. Visit www.vanderstraeten.fr