



Now Showing | Andrea Branzi



If you happen to be in Paris this week, it's your last chance to see "Grandi Legni," an exhibition of work by the Italian architect and designer Andrea Branzi at the Azzedine Alaïa Gallery. Organized by two well-known Milan galleries — Design Gallery Milano and Nilufar — the exhibition features large-scale, mixed-media works that are the latest in Branzi's continuing investigation of the anthropological, "animist roots" of design. Branzi, who was part of the radical architecture studio Archizoom in the 1960s and was a co-founder of the Domus Academy, feels that in its quest for formal perfection, contemporary design has hit a self-referential brick wall. In these seemingly primitive, totemic pieces, he employs old wood beams (the "big woods" of the exhibition's title), semiprecious stones, mosaic and a new printing technology from 3M to search for the soul of design between the ancient and the modern.

"Grandi Legni" runs until Jan. 16. 18 rue de la Verrerie, Paris 75004.

VILADA, Pilar. *New York Times Magazine*, January 11, 2010

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