

ICON

Design worth knowing

Design Miami

The best work at this year's exhibition pushed beyond aesthetics, grappling with the digital, political and environmental challenges of today, says Caia Hagel. Here are some of her favourites

The mood at Design Miami 2015, now in its eleventh year, was one of playful tension between the old and the new. The pieces that stood out did so not just for their aesthetic, but also for their philosophical and political messaging. The most striking displays wrestled design away from its current retroversion into modernism, which, while perhaps offering respite from the challenges of early digitalism, fails to present tangible solutions to its realities. Here are some that did it best:

Marble vs Bronze table by Gt2p

Created by a dynamic young collaborative from Santiago, Chile, this table is the result of a process invented by the group of digitally mapping the veins of the marble ("which represents the preservation of love à la Taj Mahal," says Guillermo Parada from Gt2p), then cutting out sections to replace with bronze ("which represents daily objects, conquering and war").



Hagel, Caia. "Design Miami," *Icon*, December 11, 2015.

FRIEDMAN BENDA 515 W 26TH STREET NEW YORK NY 10001
FRIEDMANBENDA.COM TELEPHONE 212 239 8700 FAX 212 239 8760

Pirarucu couch by the Campana brothers

The fish that this piece is named after – an ancient, air-breathing giant – has long been a staple food for Amazonian people. The exotic “skin” is unexpectedly soft and acts as a symbol of post-apocalyptic survivalism.



The Joris Laarman Microstructures chaise

Using frontier technology under which 3D printing is designed and engineered on a cellular level, this couch is not only a study in futurist methods but it's soft and cozy to sit in, suggesting that we are finally acquiring sensuality in the use of computer-generated-biotechnology.



Hagel, Caia. "Design Miami," *Icon*, December 11, 2015.

FRIEDMAN BENDA 515 W 26TH STREET NEW YORK NY 10001
FRIEDMANBENDA.COM TELEPHONE 212 239 8700 FAX 212 239 8760