showtime
by Nicolai Hell

Ask a handful of people what the most memorable exhibitions at the Salone del Mobile were and most likely you’ll get a handful of different answers. The reasons for this are numerous. Certainly taste is a factor, but even more so is the impossibility of everyone seeing all the same exhibitions and, as a result, being able to judge the same body of work. In the end, the 2007 Salone will probably be best remembered less for its design and more as the year we finally had good weather.

BONE CHAIR
by Joris Laarman for Droog ‘Smart Deco’

Joris Laarman’s ‘Bone’ chair was created with the intriguing premise ‘if evolution could create a chair.’ Focusing on evolution as a process of optimization, Laarman created the bone chair with a type of software auto manufacturers use to achieve an ideal balance between strength and lightness in car parts. So why ‘Bone’? Laarman cites bones as developing such that osseous tissue forms where strength is needed and shrinks away where it is not. In designing the chair, the software was input with the shape of the seat and back as well as with the points at which the chair’s ‘legs’ meet the floor. From there the software fills in the gaps with struts to support its structure.

The seating units appear as a chair in highly polished aluminum and a chaise longue in polyurethane resin, but, as Laarman says, ‘the process can be applied to any scale up to architectural sizes, in any material strength.’