



### DOWN TO THE WIRE

Partly inspired by the thin wire that connects pylons, the 'String Lights' pendant by Michael Anastassiades for Flos is a minimal, lightweight black cord with two light sources: choose from isosceles triangles (pictured) or spheres. Flawlessly simple, the design is typical of Anastassiades' abstract approach and taps in perfectly to the current predilection for skinny silhouettes (flos.com).



### BORDER CROSSING

Once upon a time, design and fashion kept a polite distance from one another; this year, though, the number of fashion-meets-design collaborations has reached a high. And it's not the only cross-pollination we've noticed: events that combine food and drink with design are also a big trend.

At this year's Milan Furniture Fair – a barometer of future directions – we spotted a Cos pop-up shop in an industrial space; Marni debuting its Spazio Marni gallery in a 1920s factory with an exhibition of 100 chairs inspired by urban sitting rooms (the space will also be used for its catwalk shows); Danish designer Nina Tolstrup showing her 'Re-Imagined' chairs at the Marc by Marc Jacobs boutique; and Vionnet teaming up with gallerist Rossana Orlandi and Spanish designer Nacho Carbonell to create a chandelier in the fashion label's signature blue shade, inspired by its 1930s bias-cut dresses. Even Tom Dixon got in on the act, collaborating with Adidas on a

collection of convertible accessories (below): parkas that transform into sleeping bags, duffel bags that become suitcases. They're on sale from November (adidas.co.uk; tom-dixon.net).

On the food front, Dutch duo Scholten & Baijings created the 'Tea With Georg' tableware collection (above) with Georg Jensen, celebrating the ritual of tea and cake; Fornasetti decorated its original sin-inspired 'Buffet Frutto Del Peccato' side cabinet with red apples; and Tom Dixon set up his own tearoom at his 'Most' exhibition in Milan. Back home in London, you can experience the trend first hand at The Conran Shop's new 'Conran Kitchen', at its revamped Marylebone High Street store, which combines a cafe with a book bar and opens onto the shop floor (conranshop.co.uk). What does it all mean? Not just that design is winning mainstream appeal, but also that these different elements of our lives are increasingly willing to learn and gain meaning from each other. We approve!



PICTURE: PETER KRASINIKOFF / ITOPI



### NAME TO WATCH EMMANUEL BABLED

Having spent more than 20 years working with glass, French-born, Amsterdam-based Emmanuel Babled – who also designs industrial products, furniture and lighting alongside his limited-edition glass pieces – is used to looking for new ways to showcase the material. His latest collection, 'Osmosi', marries glass with marble, and traditional craft skills with new digital technology. 'It's like Cinderella's shoes,' says Babled of the project. 'Each mouth-blown glass is a one-off, which we then scan with a 3D scanner. We use this to shape the marble so it's also unique. Only one piece of glass will fit into one piece of marble, like one of Cinderella's feet fitting perfectly in a slipper' (babled.net).



### IN FULL SWING

Marble is a hugely on-trend material right now, and one of the most interesting uses of it we've seen recently was in this Milan installation by Israeli-born designer Ron Gilad for Italian marble specialist Salvatori. Entitled 'A Magnificent Mistake', it used the cool, heavy stone to render seemingly weightless things – a swing held up by balloons, a smoking roof, a stack of paper sheets and footprints. Inspired (salvatori.it).