

HOMES & GARDENS

FRESH directions

WHAT CONTEMPORARY STYLE
LOOKS LIKE TODAY



SNEAK PEEK

RHS CHELSEA
FLOWER SHOW

MILAN
DESIGN WEEK

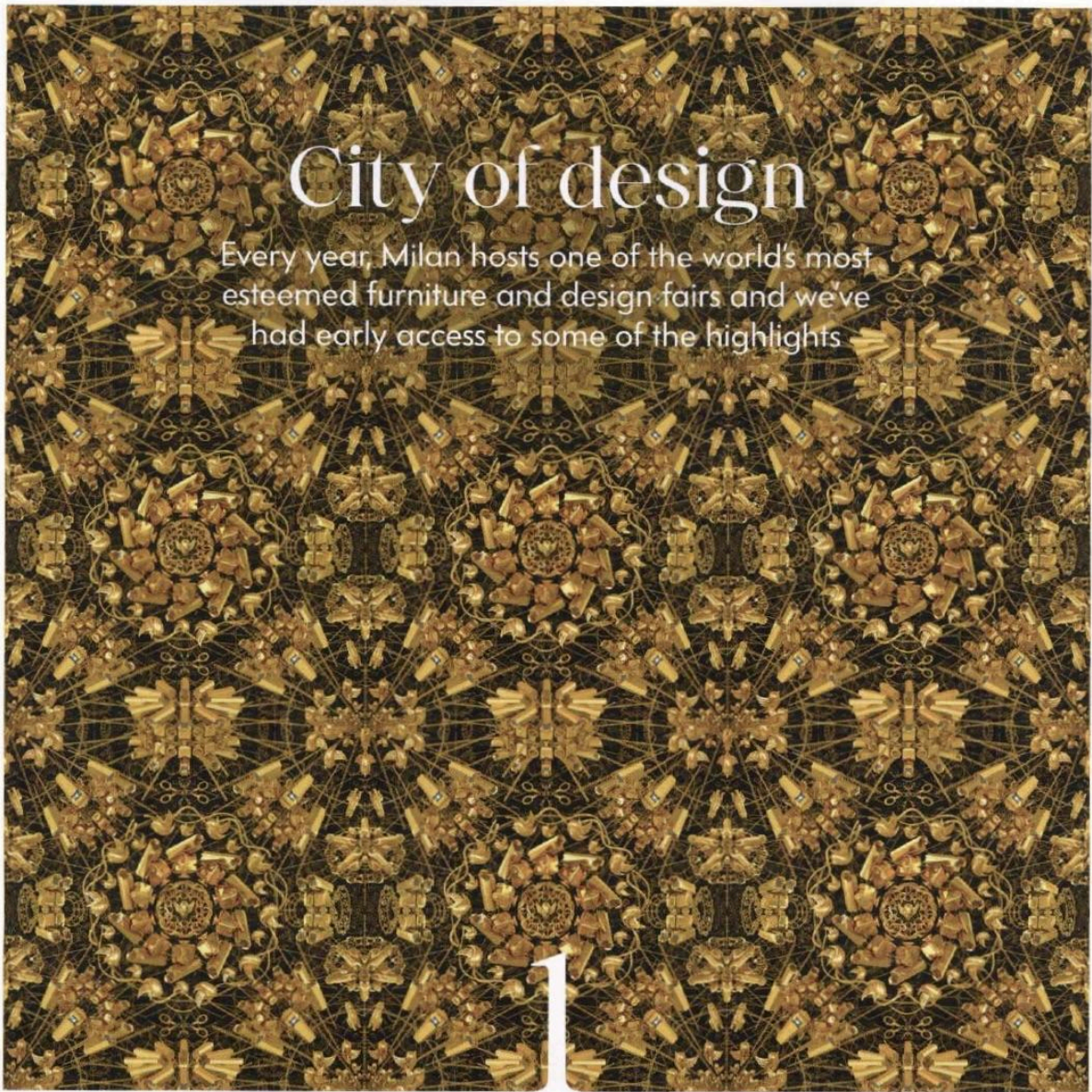
BOLD DESIGN

Standout
bathroom details
Colour in kitchens
Chic interiors
by new creatives



May 2026

May 2026



City of design

Every year, Milan hosts one of the world's most esteemed furniture and design fairs and we've had early access to some of the highlights

Widely regarded as the biggest event in the global design calendar, Milan Design Week (21-26 April) is a vast celebration of creativity that draws hundreds of thousands of visitors to the Italian city every spring. At its heart is Salone del Mobile at the Fiera Milano fairgrounds in Rho, where the world's leading designers and manufacturers unveil their newest and most exciting launches. Beyond the fair, more than

1,000 installations, exhibitions and pop-ups ripple across palazzos, courtyards and showrooms, while after hours, the design crowd descends on the legendary Bar Basso for a well-earned Aperol and a spirited debate about the week's standout moments. Expect long queues and a step count that climbs well into five figures; the payoff, however, is an exclusive first look at the ideas set to shape our homes in years to come.

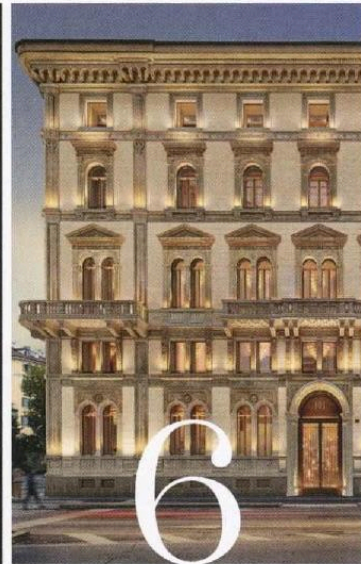
1. Look closely at this intricate silk lampas, and instead of exotic birds and florals, the motifs running through the weave include surveillance cameras, handcuffs and even the Twitter bird. Designed by the inimitable Ai Weiwei, they represent the personal and political struggles of the Chinese activist and artist. A collaboration with Venetian manufacturer Rubelli, the fabric will be used to create an immersive installation at the brand's Via Fatebenefratelli showroom.

FEATURE CLAUDIA BAILLIE PHOTOGRAPHS (1) FELIPE SANGUINETTI



5. Restaurants, a museum, a cinema and even a monastery are just some of unconventional spaces that Tom Dixon has inhabited during design week, and this year, the British icon is keeping the bar high. The 12-room Mua Mua Hotel in the Centrale district will present AW26 collections including a new lighting family, FLARE, as well as a selection of new furniture and accessories, with each room offering a different narrative.

PHOTOGRAPHS (5) PETE NAVETT; (6) RH



6. Those who've visited RH England in Oxfordshire will know that the US luxury brand doesn't do things by halves. No surprises then, that RH Milan, the company's latest Gallery, which launches on 22 April, sits on Corso Venezia, one of the city's most elegant avenues. Located within a jewel-like neoclassical building, the immersive retail and hospitality destination is set across seven floors and will showcase the brand's newest collections.

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DON'T MISS

Le Design Défilé will take over Via Statuto II, in the heart of the buzzy Brera Design District. Conceived by Paris-based architecture firm Jakob+MacFarlane, this installation draws inspiration from the world of fashion, unfolding as a dramatic, runway-style scenography. Set across two spaces, the first brings together furniture by designers and brands such as Andrée Putman, Constance Guisset Studio, OUD Architecture, Petite Friture and many more. The second spotlights heritage and contemporary French manufacturers including Fermob, Franck Genser, Gautier, Ligne Roset and Maison Sarah Lavoine, who will present three pieces that encapsulate their design ethos and vision. Together, the works collectively celebrate the savoir faire and distinctive DNA of French creativity, and crucially, their shared commitment to responsible manufacturing. →