

MONOCLE

**INSIDE: FROM DOGS TO RICHES BIDEN REPORT CARD
LOTS OF KENZO TEAM GORMLEY VIEW FROM NATO**

M **A to F** **AFFAIRS:** The mayor rethinking Helsinki **BUSINESS:** How to fix co-working spaces **CULTURE:** Art apartments
DESIGN: Simply the best **ENTERTAINING:** Portuguese porkers and oysters **FASHION:** Top draw: fashion's illustration revival



Ideas to sustain you



Offices to return to



Divine urban interventions

Top 50 Design Awards

D 50 2021

The furniture, graphics, parks, people, shops, homes and schools that are best in class.

(PLUS: Making a scene at Studio Babelsberg, Europe's Hollywood)



Homes to make you happy



Retail to lead a revival



The fine kit to covet



An architect who inspires

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THE ROAD AHEAD The Cape's less-travelled R62 takes you to South Africa's new makers, weavers and bakers
TAKE UMBRIA Castello di Reschio, the hotel made to order **UP AGAINST THE WALL!** Poster art for picture-perfect homes

DESIGN AWARDS 2021

D

DESIGN/GLOBAL

Making good

Our first ever Design Awards are here, honouring the year's 50 most thoughtfully made objects and buildings.

Design Awards

Weeks of conversations with our correspondents across the globe and hours of interviewing designers from Stockholm to Seoul have resulted in the inaugural Monocle Design Awards. We've enlisted our international photographers and journalists to tell these stories but it's the world-class body of work that is the real hero. Having spent the past 14 years profiling the globe's most interesting architects, urban planners, graphic designers, creative consultants and furniture-makers, we felt that it was time to recognise this talent more formally.

MONOCLE's focus has always been on telling stories about improving quality of life and creating more liveable cities. These awards pay tribute to this approach and highlight how enjoyable and useful good design is in enhancing our lives.

Now settle into your most beautifully crafted chair and prepare to learn about 50 designs that will make your life much better. — NSG

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BEST TEMPORARY ARCHITECTURE

The Braunstein Taphouse Denmark

That temporary architecture tends to be tasteless makes sense: why put effort into a design that will be demolished in a few years? The answer lies in the Braunstein Taphouse on the harbour of the town of Koege, which is almost too good-looking to be taken apart.

Composed largely of timber, the establishment contains a microbrewery, a café and event spaces, and is designed by Danish architecture firm Adept with a smart consideration of the building's limited lifespan. "We have worked with the principle of 'design for disassembly'," says Anders Lonka, founding partner at Adept. "It is constructed with



only mechanical joints and no paintwork." It has already become important to the community, while familiarising people with an area that soon will be developed into a new destination for the town. — ASG adept.dk



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BEST
COLLABORATION

LaFuma
× Bleu de
Chauffe
France

Good collaboration needs both parties to play to their strengths, which is why we were particularly excited when French brand LaFuma, known for its 1950s camping chairs, began to work with legendary leather bags brand Bleu de Chauffe. Together, they've produced a smart folding chair with a tubular steel frame and butter-soft leather seat. Two brands are indeed better than one. — LIF lafuma-mobilier.fr; bleu-de-chauffe.com



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BEST VISUAL MERCHANDISING

Studio Astolfi
Portugal

Visual merchandising remains a bedrock of selling and when done right, the practice is a joy to behold. For one of the world's finest examples, we're celebrating the work of Portugal's Studio Astolfi, which has carved out an attractive niche with window displays for brands including Hermès. Founded by Joana Astolfi, a trained architect with a love of art, the studio's work for the famed luxury goods purveyor has wowed passersby of its shops in Portugal, Spain and France. Her imaginative commissions can take upwards of two months to realise and feature both static and moving parts.

She relies on a small staff and an external team of woodcarvers, welders and glass-makers to bring her sketches to life. From handmade model aeroplanes to beautiful spinning tops made from cherry and walnut, Hermès is able to elegantly showcase its handbags and scarves each season within Astolfi's fanciful miniature worlds.

"Window displays are a sort of open-air gallery," says Astolfi of the *wunderkammer*-like scenes her studio creates, including a mountain railway and underwater world complete with a giant squid. "Online shopping is flat; this is the opposite. It's scenographic and it lifts people's moods." — IC studioastolfi.pt

