

MODERN LUXURY

BY THE PUBLISHERS OF MIAMI MAGAZINE

Interiors

South Florida

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BATH PROJECTS, PRODUCTS
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PLUS

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BY PEPE CALDERIN

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DISPATCH FROM PARIS:
MAISON&OBJET



FALLING WATER
From top: Rio's steel and glass fountain table, which lined crowds at Maison&Objet, can be fashioned to flow into a pool (rio-design.fr); Nini Andrade Silva draws raves as one of several standout Portuguese brands at the fair.

illumination. (He gave a TEDx Talk that describes his process and design philosophy, available on YouTube.) Charrié, too, creates charming pieces that confound expectations, pieces that become something else. His Surfaces Sonores look like shields fashioned from molded maple plywood, but they amplify and enhance music by serving as both speaker and instrument. "The wood works like a vibration," Charrié explains.

Other pieces are arrayed before us in the designer's small stand. Nuto is a fragrance diffuser masquerading as a kinetic sculpture—a pendulum consisting of a marble base, a motor, a carbon rod and a swaying ostrich feather. That feather

"THE WOOD WORKS LIKE A VIBRATION," SAYS RISING TALENT PIERRE CHARRIÉ OF HIS MOLDED MAPLE PIECES.

seems to follow us, brushing up against us. And the enigmatic Campanes is a sort of table set upon a bell—or a gong. It's a kind of singing cocktail table.

"I like to invent new types of objects or find new forms for products," Charrié says to Gunawan, "like you did." The two designers confer thoughtfully about the perennial tension between the requirements of the market and the desire to create idiosyncratic pieces that advance the cause of functional art. And soon Gunawan and I are off to explore more of the hall.

There are Wewood's collapsible bookcases (Gunawan likes those) and my favorite: desks with hidden compartments to admire (wewood.eu). Wewood is one of several brands representing Portugal at the fair. Another is Nini Andrade Silva (niniandradeilva.com). I find myself quite taken with the organic forms that settle into lounges and benches.

Gunawan is in love with the ceramics section, particularly the silhouettes of the charcoal-gray Olio set from Royal Doulton (royaldoulton.com). The storied English tableware company dates from 1815. The pitcher, cups and bowls are matte on the outside; shiny on the inside. "It's a supersimple monochrome," Gunawan says. "Clean, but not too industrial—I just want to touch it." I start to reach for a small jug, then remember that someone was scolded for doing just that a few moments before.

Of course, no design fair worth its salt would be complete without an immersive sensory experience, and at this edition of Maison&Objet, that's TeamLab's "Forest of Resonating Lamps." Inside a darkened tent, Hideaki Takahashi has strung Murano glass pendants that change tone—from blue to yellow to purple—when I draw near to them (team-lab.net). At once, I am surrounded by an ever-changing world of color and light—a reminder that beauty is everywhere to discover and interact with. maison-objet.com ■

