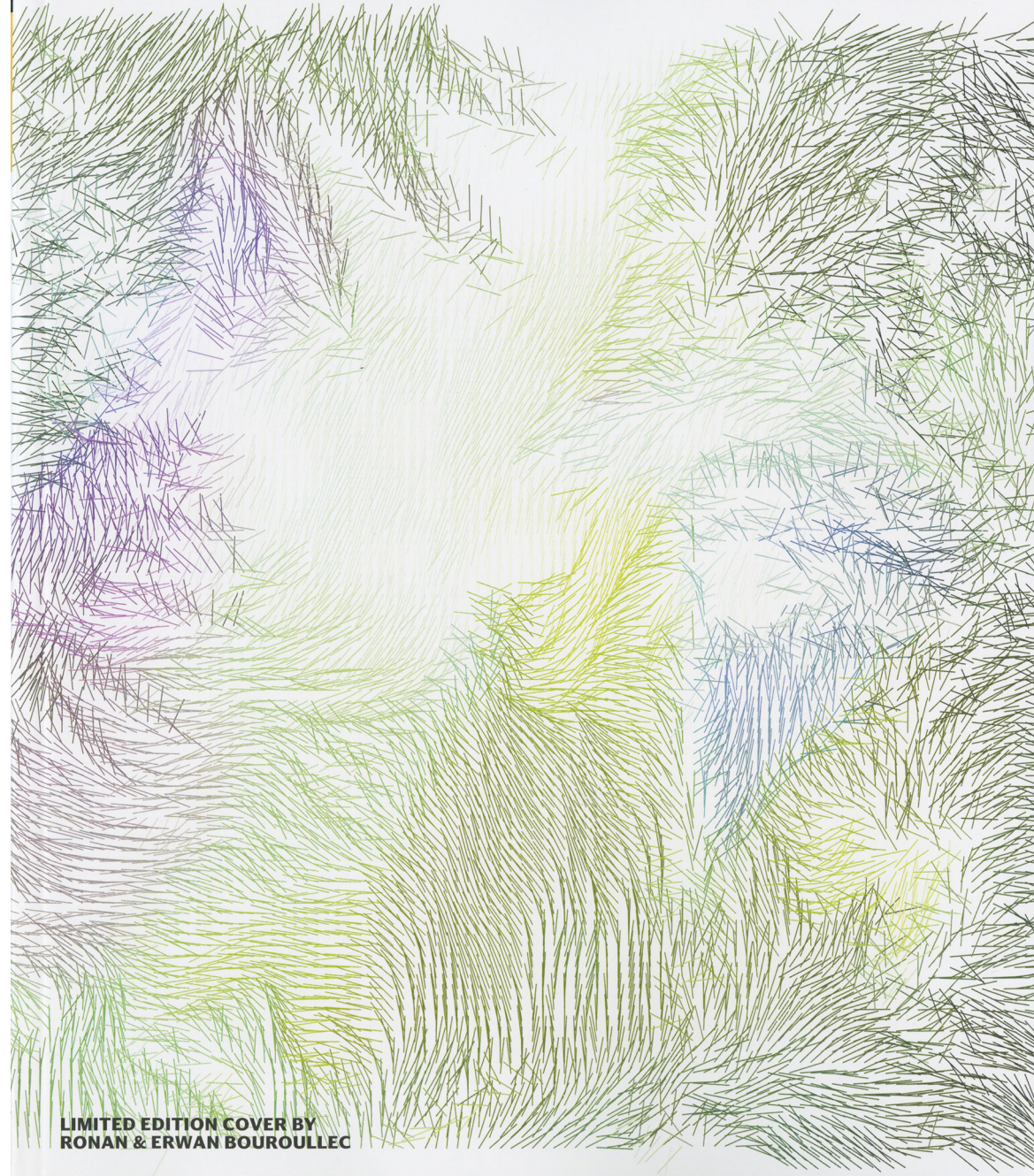


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AUGUST 2017

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LIMITED EDITION COVER BY
RONAN & ERWAN BOURULLEC

CONTRIBUTORS



MATTEO THUN ▲
Architect and designer

'The baby is born the right way,' declared Matteo Thun the moment he saw the first prototype of his 'Immaculate Care' case, a kit for the perfectly groomed gentleman (page 090). He was meeting his Handmade collaborator Alessandro Sartori, artistic director at Ermenegildo Zegna, and our own Nick Vinson back in February, and deemed no amendments were required. After his successful delivery, next up for Thun is a wellness destination in Switzerland.



KAREN CHEKERDJIAN ▲
Designer

Lebanese designer Karen Chekerdjian works from a new 6,500 sq ft studio and gallery in Beirut's Bourj Hammoud, creating objects that are at once austere and graceful. Her style is apparent in the geometric 'Infinity' table (page 175), which she created for us with terrazzo specialist Grandinetti, based on an abstract Zen painting of the universe. Chekerdjian currently has designs on show as part of 'Free Play' at Santa Barbara's Contemporary Art Museum and 'Sur/face' at Frankfurt's Museum Angewandte Kunst.

RONAN & ERWAN BOUROULLEC ▼
Designers

The multi-talented Bouroullecs contributed our limited-edition subscriber cover, the illustrations for this page, and combined digital software with embroidery to create a Handmade showstopper, 'The Veil' (pages 082 and 170), with French masters Lesage Intérieurs. 'Embroidery is an amazing language, with each point making a part of the picture while conveying its own weight and magic,' they say. The duo's recent work includes an installation of outdoor seating, co-produced with Kvadrat, in Aarhus.



YVES BÉHAR ▼
Designer

Fuseproject founder Béhar intends his Ten Commandments of Science (page 048), to be a 'conversation starter on the role of science in decision making'. He wants to shake up the notion of believing: 'Belief has been ascribed a religious connotation. But isn't science a set of beliefs as well? Can we believe in the "book of science"? One thing Béhar doesn't believe in is sitting still; he's just launched an intelligent office system for Herman Miller, promoting physical activity.



ISABELLE STANISLAS ▲
Interior architect

Based in Paris but passionate about all things Japanese, Stanislas was tasked with reinventing the tea cart (page 154), taking inspiration from the Japanese tea ceremony and working with copper kitchenware maker Mauviel. The challenge, she says, was designing 'an object of contemplation rather than a simple piece of furniture'. Stanislas, who set up her practice in 2001, is working on houses in Ibiza and Comporta, as well as interiors for Château Malromé in Gironde.



TOM DIXON ▲
Designer

The award-winning British designer gave his team a fright when he decided to install a coffin in his staff room - 'Everybody freaked out,' he says, 'which is really a reflection of the symbolic grip that coffins have on the popular imagination.' His team was relieved to learn it was all part of Dixon's project to create a contemporary casket, with Italian company Paper Factor (page 060). In the designer's pipeline, meanwhile, are a transformable bed for Ikea, and interiors for Sydney's Quay Quarter Tower.



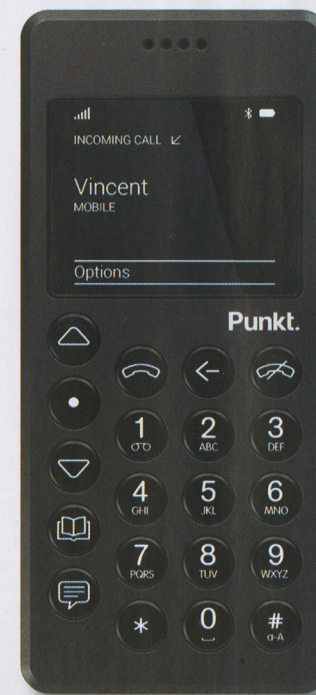
Data is important, certainly.
But is it what we were built for?

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the singing kitties, the #holidayspam...
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Making Of...

AT LESAGE INTÉRIEURS' WORKSHOPS IN CHENNAI, KVADRAT'S 'TIME 300' FABRIC WAS STRETCHED ON A GIANT WOODEN LOOM, HELD IN PLACE WITH STRAPS. WHEN ONE SECTION OF EMBROIDERY WAS COMPLETE, MORE CLOTH WAS UNROLLED, STEP BY STEP, TOWARDS THE OUTSIDE OF THE FRAME

Loom large

'The Veil', by Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec, and Lesage Intérieurs

PHOTOGRAPHY: MARK HARTMAN WRITER: NICK VINSON



See the finished exhibition piece on page 170

Making Of...



OPPOSITE, EXAMPLES OF MORE TRADITIONAL EMBROIDERY IN LESAGE INTÉRIEURS' VASTRAKALA WORKSHOPS IN CHENNAI
THIS PAGE, JEAN-FRANÇOIS LESAGE AT HIS DESK

Making Of...



'Embroidery is like the origin of pixels, with each point making a part of the picture, while also conveying its own magic'

coding for a client and wanted to see how they could make that work for this project. 'Embroidery is a way to make pictures or something graphic, something that people recognise, like uniforms for the army, embedded with very clear codes or signs.' Yet in an era of Smartphone photography, 'people can't read the embroidery – or they have lost the ability to read it', so they found a solution where 'software would act as a translator for an ancient technique, to speak the words of a contemporary picture'.

Taking inspiration from our holy theme, the project was named 'The Veil', and its execution took place in Lesage's Vastrakala workshop in Chennai, India. To create their veil, the designers chose to use a fabric by Kvadrat, a company with whom they have a longstanding connection. Designed by Erik Ole Jørgensen in 1987, 'Time 300' is a yarn-dyed Trivera fabric, which uses a weaving process that employs two different shades – one in the weft and the other in the warp – to create a subtle two-tone effect. The fabric was stretched over a giant wooden loom, held in place with straps. This allowed more than ten men to work simultaneously on the cloth, which measured 6m x 3m. Oversized pixels, in the form of 7,200 custom-made frosted blue PVC paillettes in three sizes, were then

ABOVE: THE 46 MEN AND 12 WOMEN WHO MAKE UP THE TEAM AT THE VASTRAKALA WORKSHOPS. THERE ARE AN ADDITIONAL 142 PEOPLE WORKING AT ANOTHER LOCATION NEARBY

hand-stitched in blue cotton mouliné, a task that involved 180,000 individual stitches from a team of 20, who clocked in more than 1,000 hours.

Traditionally, fabric is embroidered on one side only and lined at the back, but the Bouroullecs requested that the thread be beautifully finished on both sides, so that the piece could be viewed from all angles. Jean-François Lesage says this approach is extremely rare, comparing it to 'having a back stage as clear as the main stage'. For Lesage, the challenge was 'mostly to ensure a perfect positioning of each element to respect the architectural aspect of the décor'. He had expected a 'culture shock' between 'the past and the present', but he and his team found the experience to be positive, constructive and fruitful or, as he put it, 'a nice encounter between poets'.

Erwan adds, 'Embroidery is an amazing language, full of diverse expression and manner. In a way, it is like the origin of pixels, with each point making a part of the picture while also conveying its own weight and magic'. As for the finished piece, the pair were very impressed that it was constructed using so few tools – just a piece of wood to stretch the fabric, a needle, thread, scissors, and hands. Amazingly simple! ✨ bouroullec.com; lesageinterieurs.com

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Birkenstock built a reputation through its support of the human form. As a pioneer of modern orthopaedics, the 240-year-old company is renowned for its dedication to cossetting and sustaining our weary feet.

Today, the Birkenstock name is shorthand for easy comfort and orthopaedic excellence. Throughout the modern era, the company has fused science with style, creating footwear that bridges the worlds of function and fashion. And now, the German brand has taken its decades of experience and applied it to a very different challenge. We sleep for a third of our lives, and horizontal support for our musculoskeletal system is just as vital to our wellbeing as shoes are to our posture and stance. Following sleep studies undertaken at the Munich Ergonomics Institute, Birkenstock's first range of beds showcases its trademark innovation, bringing design and craft together with scientific rigour to help our spines in repose as well as when we're on the move.

The biggest shoemaker in Germany, Birkenstock has worked alongside Austrian furniture producer ADA to deliver a range of premium sleep systems. ADA shares Birkenstock's values, being a family-owned business with more than a century of tradition and innovation behind it, and a history of combining craft with state-of-the-art manufacturing. From its origins as a ropemaker, ADA branched out into mattresses, becoming Austria's largest furniture maker. Both companies are committed to using sustainable raw materials, often locally sourced, as well as the latest production techniques.

The range consists of six beds: 'São Paulo', 'Montreal', 'Iona', 'Montevideo', 'Maine' and 'Canberra'. Each offers every conceivable facet of modern bedroom design, fine craft and superior materials: the style and science of sleep have never been paid such close attention. These classically elegant, contemporary designs are intended to refine and revolutionise this crucial aspect of your life, with high-quality materials and finishes delivering a combination of structured base and mattress designed for ultimate support.

'São Paulo' is a classic 'floating' design with a recessed plinth and a bold upholstered headboard; brown leather detailing contrasts with the ecru fabric. 'Montreal', meanwhile, has an oak plinth etched with the pattern found on the tread of Birkenstock footwear. The low and elegant 'Iona' evokes handcrafted modernist furniture through its slim oak legs; despite its apparently shallow depth, it is still a fully fledged box-spring bed. Branded leather straps on the headboard double as useful storage, while matching and complementary nightstands are

available for this and all models. 'Montevideo' is a bolder statement, with dark brown upholstery contrasting with the oiled, etched oak plinth and feet. 'Maine' encloses its occupants in a subtly curving headboard that intersects neatly with the dark, slender oak frame; the use of traditional loden wool from Tyrolean mountain sheep brings ADA's materials expertise to the fore. 'Canberra' has a felted wool plinth and a headboard of hand-sewn leather that will develop a distinctive patina as it ages.

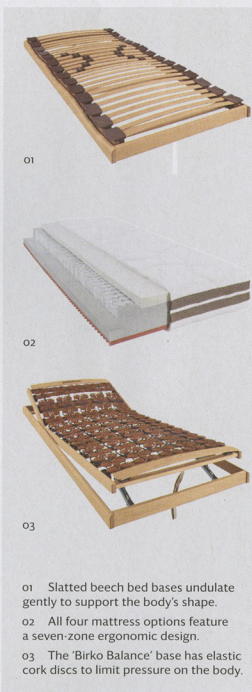
Each design has been driven by the qualities of the materials, which in turn have been strongly influenced by Birkenstock's shoe-making experience. The natural leather, wool felt, and natural latex and cork are familiar to fans of Birkenstock's comprehensive range of shoes and sandals. Working closely with ADA, the design team transferred their know-how into fully featured beds, which are manufactured in ADA's Styria HQ.

Layering is the key to cushioning, for feet as well as for slumbering bodies. In cross-section, each of the four mattress options - 'Islay', 'Bilbao', 'Bangkok' and 'Helsinki' - demonstrate a seven-zone ergonomic design that allows the mattress to fit the contours of the body, while a latex and granulated cork support layer keeps the spine perfectly positioned. By using ADA's mattress mastery as well as fresh thinking about frames, box springs, overlays and bases, this collaboration has created a new benchmark for healthy, environmentally-friendly design.

The ergonomic underpinnings start with the slats, perfectly spaced and expertly balanced in an undulating formation to reflect what the company describes as the 'characteristics of the human form when sleeping and lying down'. The 'Birko Active' base is made of European beech, while the 'Basic' version is still shaped for body-wide comfort and retains the option of motorised adjustment. The 'Birko Balance' base introduces a raft of elastic cork discs, crafted using Birkenstock's acumen with shoes and soles to relieve pressure on the body.

Birkenstock's load-bearing expertise has been effectively translated from feet in action to the body in repose. Small but vital details abound, including a 'heel relief zone' that will come as no surprise to aficionados of the company's supremely comfortable footwear. Essentially a softer zone of cushioning around the base of the leg, this feature will be especially welcome among those who sleep on their backs, helping spread pressure evenly between legs and body.

Sleep systems are a logical next step for a company that prides itself on putting people first, analysing form, material, structure and surface to seek out the best solution to every problem. 'After all, a person's spine is just as important for mobility as his or her feet,' says Birkenstock's chief executive, Oliver Reichert. The brand's beds promise a night of perfect rest, invisibly supported by skills and expertise gathered over centuries. birkenstock-group.com



01 Slatted beech bed bases undulate gently to support the body's shape.

02 All four mattress options feature a seven-zone ergonomic design.

03 The 'Birko Balance' base has elastic cork discs to limit pressure on the body.



Holy Handmade!

We took a spiritual turn at this year's Salone, finding a cult following with our show in a deconsecrated church in Milan's Brera

Photography Leandro Farina Interiors Matthew Morris
Exhibition Design DWA Architects

'THE VEIL'

Ronan & Erwan Bouroullec
and Lesage Intérieurs,
see pages 082 and 170

'TOMORROW, AND
TOMORROW,
AND TOMORROW'

Conrad Shawcross
and Architectural
Titanium,
see pages 197 and 198

TREASURE BOX

RDAI and
Lanserring,
see page 106

'AIRPLANE
MODE' VESSEL

Branch and
Concreteworks,
see page 075

MODULAR COLUMN

Tijmen Smeulders
and Olivier van Herpt,
see pages 092 and 174

'POCKET OCEAN'

Mathieu Lehanneur and
Gérard Pigault, see page 069

MONOLITHIC FONT

Tino Seubert and Pibamarmi
see pages 176 and 198

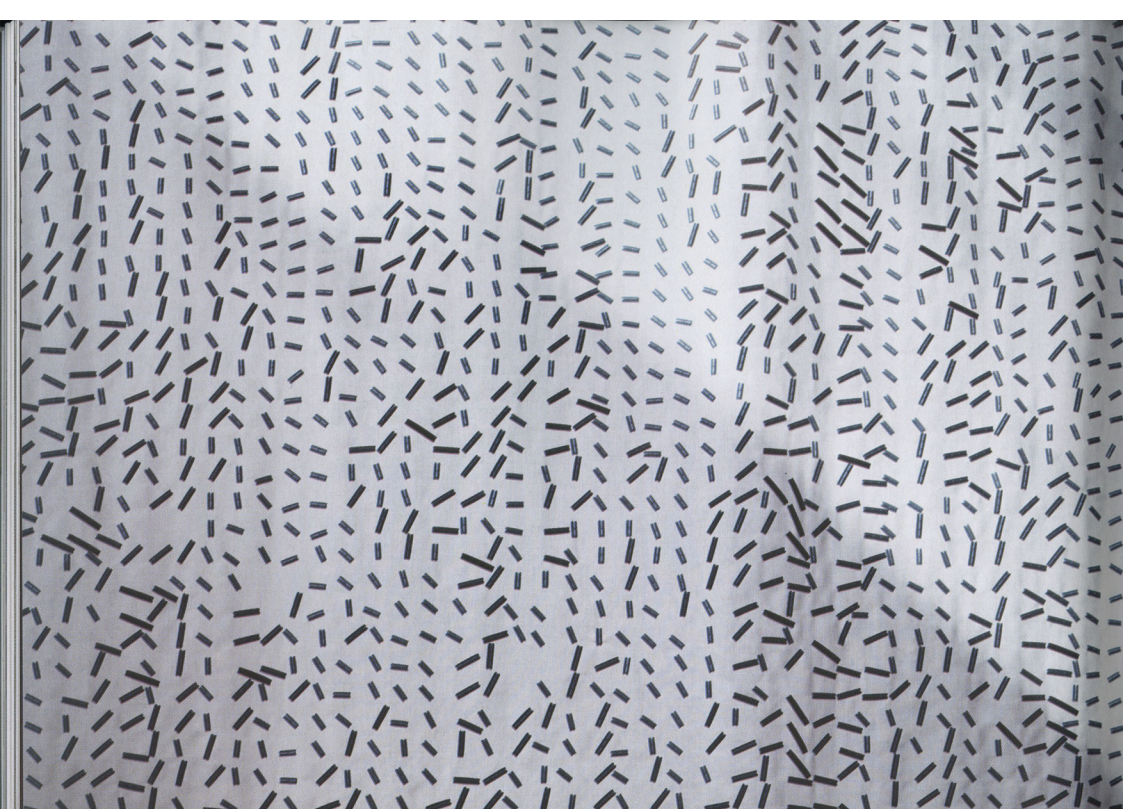
'INFINITY' TABLE

Karen Chekerdjian
and Grandinetti,
see pages 175 and 198

'SOLTEIRA' BENCH

Pedro Paulo-Venzon
and Driade,
see pages 194 and 198

Our Holy Handmade! exhibition turned Milan's Mediateca Santa Teresa into a non-denominational temple of divine design. See select offerings in heavenly close-up on the following pages, and find out more about each project throughout the issue



'The Veil'
Ronan & Erwan Bouroullec
and Lesage Intérieurs

A thousand hours of faultless embroidery, custom-made spangles and 18 sq m of Kvadrat's 'Time 300' fabric form this pixel-inspired hanging; the mini version features 'Divina 3' fabric, see page 082

