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exceptional living Issue #56

LIVING CONNECTION The Quiet Voice of Nature

Escape to a Country Refuge by Flack Studio - Inside a Belgian Architect's Modernist Villa A New Lens on Mexican Architect Luis Barragán - Mesura Designs an Urban Sanctuary in Barcelona 50 Australian Architects and Interior Designers Vote for Their Definitive List of Products



Definitive Design Products for 2025

We asked 50 notable Australian architects and interior designers to vote for their definitive list of products for 2025. This first instalment reveals the pieces that resonate across furniture, lighting and rugs, and why.

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Standard

Francesco Binfaré Edra, 2016

"The Edra Standard sofa is flexible, sophisticated, and comfy as hell. I haven't met a room it doesn't suit."

- Georgina Jeffries

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"The Living Divani Extrasoft sofa is unparalleled in quality construction and comfort-no copy comes close."



This page: Grey House by Adam Kane Architects, photography by Timothy Kaye. Opposite page: Park House by Pleysier Perkins and Mim Design, photography by Sean Fennessy.



- Ingrid Richards, Richards and Spence

Cousy

Vincent Van Duysen

Arflex, 2006

"Timeless, elegant and comfortable. This piece sits outside trends."

– Kirsten, Richards Stanisich

Prime Time

Tom Steppe MAKE Nordic, 2009

"The Prime Time chair by Tom Steppe is like a modern twist on the Eames classic, just beautifully pared-back (and more comfortable)."

- Ramon Pleysier, Pleysier Perkins

Up 50 Armchair

Gaetano Pesce

B&B Italia, 2000

"I love the form of the Up 50 armchair by Gaetano Pesce. It commands a room and helps hold a space. I'm a sucker for the original stripped fabric; honestly it's one of the favourite things I own!"

- Adam Haddow, SJB

Utrecht

Gerrit Thomas Rietvel Cassina, 1988

"The Utrecht armchair by Gerrit Thomas Rietveld is known for its unique proportions, ergonomics, and longevity, ensuring its versatility for a variety of settings."

Eames Lounge Chair & Ottoman **Charles & Ray Eames** Vitra, 1950

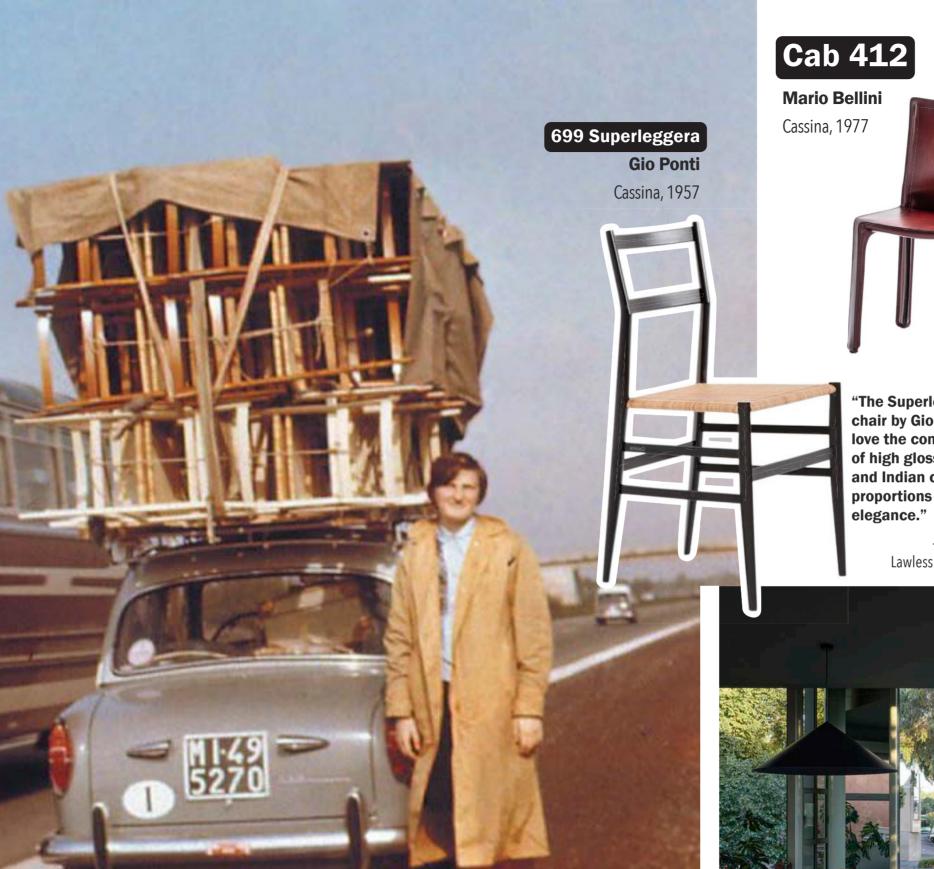
"There is simply no contest; it has always been and will always be the Eames lounge chair and ottoman."

- Eva-Marie Prineas, Studio Prineas

- Sue Carr, Carr

This page: Queens Park House by Ben Vitale Design and Arent&Pyke, styling by Studio CD, photography by Anson Smart.

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This page: Cassina 699 Superleggera chair, image courtesy of Cassina. Opposite page: Six-Ways House by Kennedy Nolan, photography by Derek Swalwell. Bay House by Arent&Pyke, photography by Anson Smart.

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"The Superleggera chair by Gio Ponti. I love the combination of high gloss lacquer and Indian cane. Its proportions are pure

> – Jo Lawless, Lawless & Meyerson

"I particularly love these classic leather dining chairs as they age, revealing a beautiful patina from dinners past."

- Susi Leeton, Susi Leeton Architects + Designers

No.B9 Le Corbusier

Le Corbusier

Thonet, 1920s

"The B9 by Le Corbusier for Thonet is elegant and comfortable with beautifully integrated arms; it is also infinitely adaptable with colour, finish, and seat types."

- Patrick Kennedy, Kennedy Nolan

"Me, Myself and I by Volker Haug and David Flack; the simplicity, size and cast brass add a pared-back, yet strong definition to an interior."

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Volker Haug

Me, Myself and I

Flack Studio & Volker Haug, 2024

Akari 15a Pendant

Isamu Noguchi Vitra, 1951

"The Akari 15A pendant light by Isamu Noguchi is an intricately crafted piece that acts as a halo above a dining table with a beautiful soft and warm light output diffused through the Japanese washi paper."

- Sarah Cosentino, Studio Esteta



"The Uchiwa wall lamp by Ingo Maurer is a classic piece, and we love the way it emits a beautiful ambient glow. It also serves as a piece of art on the wall."

- Sally Cook, Pasquale Cook

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- Miriam Fanning, Mim Design





This page: Photography by Pier Carthew. Image courtesy of Viabizzuno Opposite page: Image courtesy of The Noguchi Museum Archives, 07282.

Special Feature

Candela di Vals Peter Zumthor Viabizzuno, 1996

"The Candela di Vals designed by Peter **Zumthor for Viabizzuno** and used in his thermal baths is simultaneously delicate and robust."

Toio LED

Achille & Pier Giacomo Castiglioni

Flos, 1962



"I love that the Toio has taken an everyday, utilitarian element from the automotive industry and turned it into a beautiful piece of lighting design."

- Kelvin Ho, Akin Atelier

Daphine Terra LED Tommaso Cimini

Lumina, 1975

"The Daphine Terra LED floor lamp has a refined nature. It's a classic design piece that is both functional and beautiful and suits any space."

- Cassie James-Herrick, CJH Studio

Royal Parete David Chipperfield Viabizzuno

"A perfect balance of classic and contemporary."

- Rob Mills, Rob Mills Architects



Parentesi

Achille Castiglioni & Pio Manzu Flos, 1971

"I love the Parentesi's flexibility and directional ability to illuminate walls."

This page: Image courtesy of Flos. *Opposite page:* Journey House by CJH Studio and Davidov Architects, photography by Timothy Kaye. Image courtesy of Viabizzuno.

Special Feature

- Madeleine Blanchfield, Madeleine Blanchfield Architects



"I love how the simple form sits comfortably with various scenes but the subtle curve takes it somewhere else."

- David Goss, Studio Goss

Plana

Cassina, 1969

Charlotte Perriand

"Paola Piva's iconic Alanda coffee table engages our imagination by placing an idealised industrial architectural relic of the space frame in a domestic setting."

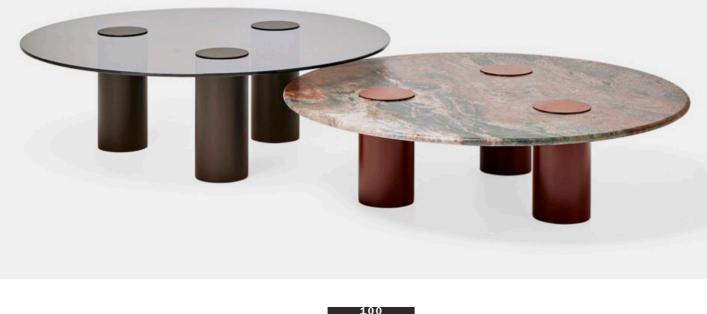
- Adrian Spence, Richards and Spence



Clare Cousins Grazia & Co, 2014

"The Ivy coffee table by Grazia & Co is such an interesting piece that can be customised to its own character within a space."

- Felicity Slattery, Studio Esteta





Special Feature

Stool 60

Alvar Aalto Artek, 1933

"The Artek Stool 60 by Alvar Aalto is both timeless and versatile."

> – Hannah Tribe, Tribe Studio Architects

Agra Armadillo

"The workhorse in so many of ou projects."

– Sophia

Barranana

This page: Image courtesy of Armadillo. Opposite page: Stone Soul House by Robson Rak, photography by Shannon McGrath.

design."

Williams Burton Leop

Chromatic

Halcyon Lake

range using high-low textures, adding another interesting element to a room, making it feel gorgeous underfoot."



"Atelier Février rugs are statement pieces, beautifully handcrafted, with an extensive catalogue of fully customisable designs. It's all about their bold use of colour, organic shapes and playful

Atelier Février Fresque Olivia Cognet 103

- Nick Tobias, Tobias Partners