

## Deborah Berke, India Mahdavi, and Other Designing Women Share Their Top Picks for Design Miami/Basel

Ahead of the Swiss fair, five leading females in architecture and design select standouts

TEXT BY HADLEY KELLER · Posted May 31, 2018



Clockwise from top left: Deborah Berke, founder of AD100 firm Deborah Berke Partners; AD100 designer India Mahdavi; Libby Sellers, author of *Women Design: Pioneers in Architecture, Industrial, Graphic and Digital Design from the Twentieth Century to the Present Day*; architect Dara Huang, founder of Design Haus Liberty; multimedia artist and designer Katie Stout. Photos, clockwise from top left: Winnie Au, Paolo Roversi, Joakim Blockstrom, courtesy of Dara Huang, courtesy of Katie Stout

In just two short weeks, the international glitterati will descend on a quaint riverside city in Switzerland to hobnob, drink expensive champagne—and oh, buy a little art. That's right, it's Basel season. The art world's biggest fair kicks off June 12, and with it, since 2006, the Swiss iteration of *Design Miami/*. The fair, which has, in its 12-year run, grown into the most venerable showcase for design, will spotlight work from dozens of top-tier galleries around the world. This year, the fair asked five top women in architecture and design to select standout items ahead of the event. AD PRO gets an exclusive look at what *Deborah Berke*, *India Mahdavi*, *Katie Stout*, *Libby Sellers*, and Dara Huang are eyeing.



Photo: Courtesy of Galerie Patrick Seguin



First up on Berke's list? Jean Prouvé's 1943 lift-up table from Galerie Patrick Seguin. "There's something so seductive about Jean Prouvé," says the architect. "This table has such an elegant, slender profile. And because it is hung from the wall, it creates a flexible way to define the space of a room."



Photo: Courtesy of Gate 5



Her second pick is a statement fixture from Studio BBPR, available from Gate 5: "Studio BBPR's ceiling lamp is just spectacular—it would look great in a lobby or a large foyer."



Photo: Courtesy of Giustini Stagetti Galleria



"Franco Albini's coffee table at Giustini/Stagetti is simple and versatile," says Berke of her final favorite. "Though it was designed in 1940, it looks as if it could have been introduced today—that's timeless, good design."



Photo: Courtesy of Galerie Mitterrand



"This is such a poetic scene," says India Mahdavi of François-Xavier Lalanne's *Canard de Sèvres et Bougeoir Nénuphar* from Galerie Mitterrand. "And it's a very interesting combination of materials: Sèvres porcelain, copper, nickel silver, and steel."



Photo: Daniele Iodice



At Nilufar, Mahdavi is eyeing these 1961 seats by Brazilian designer Jorge Zalszupin. "I really like Jorge Zalszupin's work," she notes. "It is less known than other Brazilian designers such as Sergio Rodrigues or Joaquim Tenreiro. Nina Yashar has been a fantastic ambassador for Brazilian design after showing Lina Bo Bardi at Nilufar Depot for design week in Milan."



Photo: Sylvie Chan-Liat



"I love this Gino Sarfatti lamp for its incredible elegance," Mahdavi says of the 1950 103A floor light at Galerie Kreo.



Photo: Akihiro Yoshida



"Quintessentially Nendo, these watercolor pieces blur the boundaries between the material and immaterial, the ethereal and physical," says Libby Sellers of this 2018 work at Friedman Benda. "Inspired by the effect of watercolor paints on a paper surface, the aqueous inks bleed to white as if being drawn through the furniture by water. The delicacy and lightness of touch is just superb, yet conceals the energies and efforts gone into their creation."



Photo: Nick Petrie



At Cristina Grajales Gallery, Sellers has her eye on this bench by Betil Dagdelen. "Fiber or textile art has become an obsession of mine, and Betil Dagdelen takes the most exquisitely pared-back approach to the practice," she says. "She believes that nothing extraneous should be added to her furniture works—that the yarns and assorted fibers alone should do all the work in creating the function and beauty of the piece."





Rounding out Sellers's more contemporary choices is a 2018 lamp by Koenraad Dedobbeleer. "Maniera consistently presents the most intellectually inspiring and rigorously executed designs," Sellers says. "Koenraad Dedobbeleer's lamp is no different. Inspired by the work of early-20th-century architect and designer Josef Frank, the lamp is both sculpture and object. By displacing the lampshade's Art Deco origins within a contemporary pedestal, Dedobbeleer sharpens our awareness of the tangled relationships among art, design, context, and history. Impressive stuff."



Top of Dara Huang's list is Reinaldo Sanguino's 2017 "Chair 6" at The Future Perfect. "I love this piece because it's like a beautiful painting that has been three-dimensionally applied to a sculptural chair," Huang notes. "I like statement pieces that function as both art and furniture because they set a tone and attitude about the space around them. With a feature piece like this, the other furniture in the room can be quite simple."



Photo: Louise G. Feldt



Also on Huang's radar? An entirely different style of seat: a 1950 Dolphin chair by Hans J. Wegner shown at Galleri Feldt. "Who doesn't love Hans Wegner?" Huang asks. "Each of his pieces simply takes my breath away. One of my all-time favorite designers, he will forever be regarded as the godfather of furniture design. I'm in love with this classic chair."





Photo: Courtesy of Galerie Vivid



Huang also has her eye on a modern riff on traditional Delft pottery—Oliver van Herpt's vases at Galerie Vivid. "These are really cool vases and of course they are 3D-printed," Huang says. "That is the only way to get the tiled, gradient precision in the porcelain as well as the overall organic form. The layers of the diamond pattern with the motion of the blurred, blue lines gives you this feeling that the vases are moving. There are many intricate layers that result in what looks like a simple and flawlessly designed vessel."



Photo: Courtesy of Erastudio Apartment-Gallery



A throne fit, evidently, for a designer: "In the midst of a revival of everything '80s—from Memphis design to conspicuous consumption—I appreciate how understated and frugal Urano Palma's Uranoide Trone is," says Katie Stout of the piece, on display at Erastudio Apartment-Gallery. "The most regal thrones are often the most humble."



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Next on Stout's list is another simple form: Zaha Hadid's 2006 *Snow Drift*, from Ammann//Gallery. "I can't tell if I like *Snow Drift* because it's designed by Zaha Hadid or if I like it because I like it—it's difficult to distinguish her work from her person," Stout says. "Either way, the piece is welcomingly cold and imposing, and I'd like to sit on it."



"I'm still grappling with the fact that the José Zanine Caldas dining table is not the scale of an actual dining table," says Stout of the 14-inch-tall piece, made in 1970 and on display through R & Company (where Stout *has also exhibited*). "It would make for a very chic slop dinner party. But slop or not, the simplicity of this form is compelling."





