

VOGUE

HOMES

10 Standouts From the 2014 Design Fairs

by Mieke ten Have

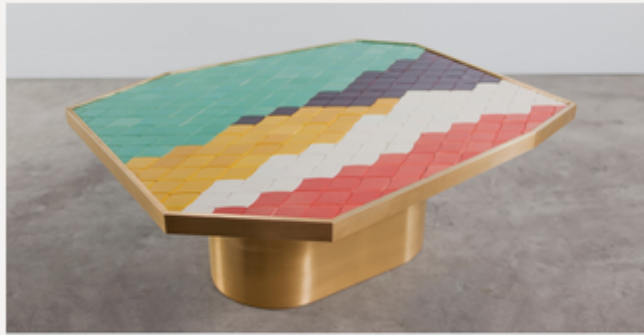
New York's design fairs, which descend en masse each May (furniture's Fashion Week, to put a metric on it), have proliferated of late with the advent of smaller format alternatives to the de rigueur International Contemporary Furniture Fair. Collective 2 and Sight Unseen OFFSITE, particularly, were rich with young talent, making these shows charged and relevant. The mood, from the more established brands to neophytes alike, was a kind of playfulness, blending surprising materials and challenging perceptions—and showing us something new. Here, a roundup of highlights.



Molly Hatch's *Recite*

Debuting at Collective 2 and represented by Todd Merrill, Molly Hatch's 199 hand-thrown porcelain plate installation, *Recite*, is based on an eighteenth-century Indian chintz. Having found the inspiration in Cooper-Hewitt's voluminous textile archives, Hatch draws out elements from the original in an attempt to pinpoint the way the eye reads pattern, "riffing on the historic as a musician may riff on a musical score." The Massachusetts-based designer, who also has a 456-plate work, *Physic Garden*, currently on display at the High Museum of Art in Atlanta, aims to reinterpret traditional floral vernacular into something contemporary—and creates something beautifully familiar yet disorienting.

Photo: Courtesy of Molly Hatch



India Mahdavi, "Landscape"

The Beirut-based Carwan Gallery's exhibition of designer and architect India Mahdavi's "Landscape" series was awash in warm gold-tones and color-saturated tile. The collection, comprised of tessellating snakeskin-like tables and incongruously shaped vases that meld into vibrant constellations, represent the designer's fascination with color theory and offer an "alternative to sunshine or shade." Mahdavi collaborated with the Iznik Foundation's ateliers, which maintain the sixteenth-century Ottoman techniques in ceramics; her use of traditional tile in unexpected combinations and applications seeks to "question the perception of indoor and outdoor spaces."

Photo: Courtesy of India Mahdavi