

MONOCLE

INSIDE: FROM DOGS TO RICHES BIDEN REPORT CARD
LOTS OF KENZO TEAM GORMLEY VIEW FROM NATO

M A to F AFFAIRS: The mayor rethinking Helsinki **BUSINESS:** How to fix co-working spaces **CULTURE:** Art apartments
DESIGN: Simply the best **ENTERTAINING:** Portuguese porkers and oysters **FASHION:** Top draw: fashion's illustration revival



Ideas to sustain you



Offices to return to



Divine urban interventions

Top 50 Design Awards

D 50 2021

The furniture, graphics, parks, people, shops, homes and schools that are best in class.

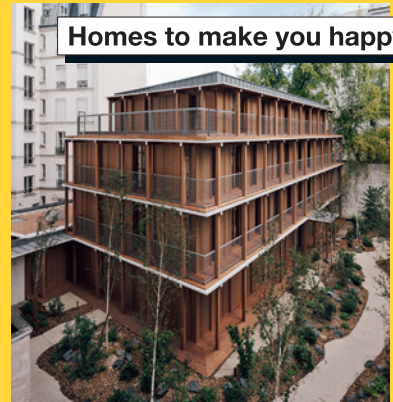
(PLUS: Making a scene at Studio Babelsberg, Europe's Hollywood)



Retail to lead a revival



The fine kit to covet



Homes to make you happy



An architect who inspires

0 5
UK £7
USD \$14
DE/AT €12
CHF 13
DKK 129.95
FIN €12
BENELUX €12
JPY ¥2,200 (tax inc)
ES/IT €12
AUD \$16.00 (tax inc)
SGD \$19.90 (tax inc)
CAD \$19.00 (tax inc)



i THE ROAD AHEAD The Cape's less-travelled R62 takes you to South Africa's new makers, weavers and bakers
TAKE UMBRIA Castello di Reschio, the hotel made to order **UP AGAINST THE WALL!** Poster art for picture-perfect homes

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BEST USE OF MATERIALS
Hildebrand
Switzerland

The natural properties of wood have always made homes more idyllic places to live in. Spend a few nights enjoying Alpine hues in a Swiss timber chalet or dipping into a hinoki tub and enjoying the aroma that's generated, and you'll catch our drift. It is for this reason that we're rewarding the work of Swiss architecture firm Hildebrand, led by architect Yuichi Kodai, in this remarkable renovation of a Zürich apartment. He has carefully combined Japanese design smarts with high-end Swiss carpentry to transform an old flat into a handsome new home. Contrasted with framed *koshi* windows and hand-formed earthen walls, the effect is truly luxurious despite the humble materials. — NSG hildebrand.ch



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BEST RURAL ARCHITECTURE
The Wachthaus
Switzerland

Rural architecture should celebrate its landscape. Jonathan Tuckey Design has done just that with a new restaurant and bar in the Swiss Alps reimagined from an decommissioned military outpost.

To ground it in its location, new walls were made from reclaimed timber boards and the red-and-white designs on its external shutters are a welcoming nod to the region's wayfinding signage and traditionally painted *louvre*s too.



The result is a cosy space in which to stop for a glass of wine (when your friends think you're on a black-diamond run), or to stay overnight and enjoy your breakfast with views over Andermatt. — NM jonathantuckey.com

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BEST NEW TALENT
Nkuli Mlangeni-Berg
Sweden

To succeed in design, it's important to be locally minded and globally reaching. Young designers working out how best to do this would do well to turn to our best new talent winner, Nkuli Mlangeni-Berg. Her textile brand, The Ninevites, celebrates the power of craftsmanship to create objects of real beauty that empower corners of the world we rarely see represented in international design.

Mlangeni-Berg might be based in Stockholm but her mission is to widen the horizons of a highly Eurocentric market; something that MONOCLE believes is long overdue. The brand was born during her time at Kaospilot, Denmark's alternative business school. A research project took her to Peru to discover the nation's indigenous textile industry. In Lima she met master weaver Mario Quispe, who helped her to produce prototype designs which he wove by hand from wool sourced nearby.

Mlangeni-Berg has expanded production to her native South Africa, where she has enlisted female artisans in remote areas who weave her made-to-order rugs using lush, local mohair; the results are then shipped to customers around the world. "In South Africa a lot of indigenous craft is dying out because people are so obsessed with everything being produced at a fast pace," says Mlangeni-Berg. "I'm trying to bring awareness to it and make more people excited about passing these skills on to the next generation." — HU theminevites.com

BEST REISSUE

Round D.154.5 chair
Italy

Gio Ponti is one of few to deserve the title of "visionary". Years before we all became hooked on ready-to-assemble furniture, the Italian architect conceived the Round D.154.5 chair. It catches the eye with its aerofoil shapes and featured in many of Ponti's interior design projects. We pay tribute to Molteni&C for bringing this gem out of the archive and reissuing it for a new generation. — IC molteni.it



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MOST INNOVATIVE BUILDING COMPANY
Timbeco
Estonia

The Design Award for the most innovative building company goes to Estonia's Timbeco. The firm's new prefabrication technology has made it a world leader in constructing prefabricated wooden houses, which help to speed up construction times and are better for the environment. Timbeco's buildings – such as the terraced houses in Kabelvåg, Norway and apartment buildings in Norrköping, Sweden (pictured) – feature stylish exteriors that help them to blend seamlessly into their natural surroundings, while the company's innovative use of wood pushes the building industry

towards a more sustainable future. "Wood is the perfect building material as it ties up CO2 from the atmosphere," says Timbeco's sales director Tõnis Vaiksaar.

Let's face it, nobody wants to live next to a construction site. Timbeco is transforming the industry by shortening construction times down to just one week, compared with more traditional methods of on-site construction that often take up to a year. "This means that we disturb the neighbours less and that the building quality is higher too, given that the elements have been built in a dry and heated environment," says Vaiksaar. — PBU timbeco.ee



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BEST PACKAGING
Convenience Wear
Japan

Launched by Japanese shop chain Familymart, Convenience Wear is a line of daily essentials including underwear and handkerchiefs. "Our design direction was clear communication because the line is sold to people of all ages, nationalities and professions," says creative director Hiromichi Ochiai, who also heads fashion label Facetasm. "We kept the graphics and text to an absolute minimum," says art director Takahiro Yasuda. Enticing and practical (particularly for those who've woken up somewhere unexpected) this shows that even basics can be enhanced through clean, cool design. — JT family.co.jp



BEST PUBLIC FURNITURE
Hamntorget
Sweden

Good public furniture should entice people to linger – something that White Arkitekter has nailed with its communal table at Hamntorget.



At 20 metres long, it has transformed a forgotten spot on Stockholm's Hammarby canal into a destination. MONOCLE particularly likes that the timber is finished using *shou sugi ban*, a Japanese technique in which wood is charred to waterproof it. — NM whitearkitekter.com

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HILDEBRAND