

PRESENT FUTURE

Designers and architects are breaking all conventions and creating designs that astound and astonish us. We give you a glimpse of what the homes of the future will sport

FEATURE SEEMA SREEDHARAN

► Designer Philipp Aduatz's Spoon Chair explores the tensile properties of metal. It is available through Space Conception

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THE END

Look to the future, because that's where you'll spend the rest of your lives. Dissolving walls, smart interfaces and intelligent furniture—all conjure up images from a sci-fi flick. But these fantasies will soon be your new reality. Everything that's ever been made is being re-examined. Designers are deconstructing concepts, buildings, computers—you name it—and starting fresh. New technology is enabling new avenues and outlets for design as well. Here, we take a look at up-and-coming designers who are changing definitions and defying conventions in their respective fields, as well as a sampling of the most innovative creations emerging across the world. The future starts here....

FURNITURE AND ACCESSORIES

Technology is revolutionising the way we design, decorate and furnish our homes. Ashish Taneja, Owner, Zolijns Design Studio gives us an insight, "Designers are constantly reinventing their design concepts, making them more sustainable and ergonomic." Adaptable designs, with interactive materials are becoming more and more prevalent. Design labs across the globe are working on concepts so futuristic that it's hard to perceive the existence of such a technology. Two aspects will dominate the world of design in future—Integrated Technology and New Age Materials.

Alien Chair, one of Alexander Petunin's many creations is all about form and functionality



▲ The T-Table designed by Patricia Urquola for Kartell is a fine example of acrylic furniture. It is available at Pallate

New-age materials

Interiors architect, Nisha JamVwal predicts the integration of various materials, "Integrating metals with crystal combinations, glass and acrylic is the way forward." Designers become scientists as they work with complex materials, and even more complex technologies. "People are using materials that were previously unthinkable. For instance materials like foamed metals, liquid wood, fly ash, paper, etc will soon dominate the design scenario," Nisha reiterates.

The use of industrial materials create a completely new platform for the designers, allowing them to experiment with the form as well as its functionality. "Take for instance Austrian Designer Philipp Aduatz's Spoon chair. So sculptural, that it's almost an artistic installation. It's his experiments with carbon fibre to be more specific, that led to this stunning design," concedes Rakhee Sheth, Owner, Space Conceptions.

While some designers are scientifically creating new materials, some others like Bram Geenen are integrating digital technology in their designs to create stunning designs. The Gaudi Chair with its extremely ergonomic design and lightweight structure is a perfect example. A unique case in point is the Magnetic Stool by Jan Van Der Weil. The design explores the link between gravity and magnetic fields.

DESIGNERS OF THE FUTURE

Bram Geenen This Dutch designer is best known for his use of extremely light material called Dyneema—a textile used to create bullet-proof vests

Jolan Van Der Wiel His Gravity Stool which explored the use of gravitational forces and magnetic properties created waves at the D3 Talents Exhibition in Cologne

Fenny Ganatra Indian designer Fenny Ganatra's Bounce Chair made of silicone and polycarbonate was showcased at the Spoga Gafa Fair in Cologne

Philipp Aduatz This Austrian designer experiments with foamed metals ►

Zaha Hadid translates her experiments with fluid forms into her latest collection of wallpapers called Art Borders. Seen on the opposite page, both these designs are available at Marshalls