

COMFORT ZONE

PAST PERFECT

At Milan's go-to furniture fair, Salone del Mobile, an overarching theme of "references to the past" emerged, including re-editions of classics like the Platner dining table and Ghost chair and a resurgence of materials like marble (see "Marble Works," page 43). It's all about nostalgia. But this wistfulness also improves upon the past, with modern takes on traditional pieces, like Jasper Morrison's Superloon LED floor lamp by Flos (left). It's a nod to the past elegance of retro tripod studio lighting in a contemporary context of high-tech LED "edge lighting" functionality—all while shedding a soft and serene moon-like glow.

Superloon LED floor lamp by Flos, \$5,995. livingspace.com

THE BIG SOFT

Curvy is in, boxy is out. Feel-good furniture gets padded and downy with XXL comfort and size. "Soft materials are everywhere and contribute to our well-being," says Maison et Objet's Malait. "References to bubbles, balloons, nests, clouds, even pods and husks feed the creative imagination behind this new-generation cocoonation." And channeling "cocoonation" is the Beam sofa system by Patricia Urquiola for Cassina (below), a series of soft cushions supported by a beam that creates "architectural rigour in a warm embrace."

Beam sofa system by Patricia Urquiola for Cassina, \$20,067. informinteriors.com

GO BOLDLY

Eschewing delicacy and relating back to comfort and stability, solidity is making an appearance in side and coffee tables and other furniture. Solid materials, bigger footprints, bolder dimensions—as seen at NYCxDesign 2017, where stable and durable pieces in wood and marble were at the fore. But this brawniness doesn't mean rustic or rough. The Pluto table by Vancouver-based Ben Barber Studio (right), with its powder-coated steel sphere base and glass top affixed with an oversized brass bolt, is both substantial and sophisticated.

Pluto table by Ben Barber Studio, \$7,800. benbarberstudio.com

At Paris Design Week this September, the theme for the influential design show Maison et Objet was "comfort zone," a response to the "discomfort zones of an unstable and insecure world," says show coordinator Marie-Jo Malait. It's a theme that's influenced furniture design for 2018, with rounder, softer shapes, and soothing, cocooning pieces that, more than ever, make home a sanctuary.

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