

AZURE

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THE PRODUCT ISSUE

The world's
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and other icons
of the maker
revolution

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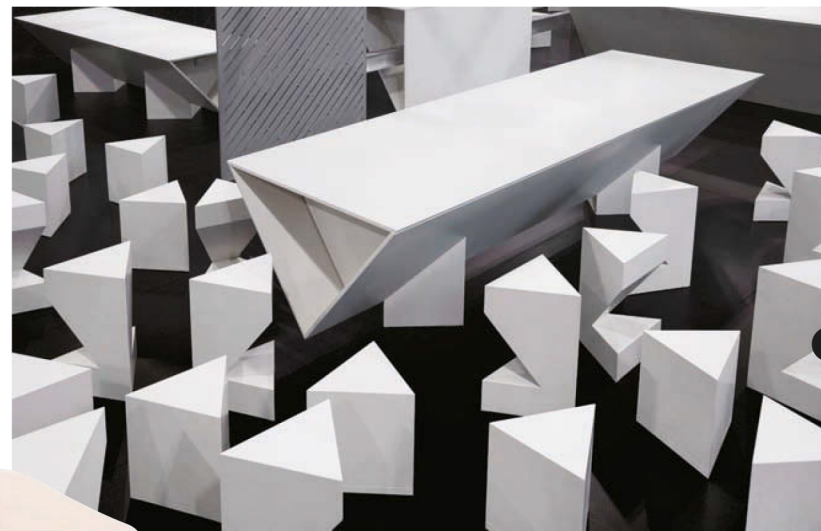
+ SHOW HIGHLIGHTS: OUR PICKS
FROM TORONTO AND COLOGNE



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SHOW REPORT

A STRAIGHT LINE NORTH

LEAN PROFILES AND NATURAL MATERIALS REIGNED AT TORONTO'S INTERIOR DESIGN SHOW AND OFF-SITE, CHAMPIONING A FRESH APPROACH TO NORTHERN TRADITION
BY KENDRA JACKSON

FOR MANY YEARS, "CANADIANA" has almost been a word to be avoided in certain circles. During Toronto Design Week in January, a national aesthetic prevailed, although it no longer relied on such clichés as tree-stump stools and live-edge felled log tables. In their place were sleeker silhouettes and pared-back palettes. For the Studio North display at the Interior Design Show, for instance, Jacob Antoni exhibited Latitude, his off-centre wooden pendant with LED components neatly tucked in a round-cornered frame. While a light made of wood has its rustic charm, Latitude's lean profile showed off a much more polished use of the material. The piece won the Best Prototype award. Local small-batch studios, including Lightmaker and furniture artisans Coolican & Company, also made good use of such natural resources as wood and copper, but with refined details that let the materials shine through.

Among other highlights was the Dekton by Cosentino booth, which revelled in crisp white. The square-cut igloo form, designed by Toronto's Cecconi Simone, was made out of the Spanish manufacturer's exclusive, ultra-durable Dekton quartz. Inside, it was an artful mix of geometric patterned panels.

British powerhouse Tom Dixon, another international player on the scene, wowed crowds with his Azure Trade Talk, and his fantasy kitchen collaboration with Caesarstone. Dubbed Ice, it looked a lot like icebergs floating in a sea of black carpeting, a cheeky reference to another cliché of Canadiana, the frozen North. The display premiered one of four kitchens by Dixon, all on view this April at EuroCucina in Milan. **AZ**

1 WHITE SPACE

The Dekton by **Cosentino** booth, designed by Toronto interior firm Cecconi Simone, showcased the versatility and beauty of the Spanish brand's revolutionary surfacing material. cosentino.com, cecconisimone.com

2 ASSEMBLY LINE

EQ3 unveiled its much-anticipated capsule collection, a collaboration with 10 up-and-coming designers who contributed everything from a pleasingly simple bottle opener to the ergonomic Assembly stool by Thom Fougere Studio. eq3.com

3 MODERN FARMHOUSE

Manufactured at **Blanco's** Canadian plant, the Ikon sink, with its angled apron front, is made from Silgranit, a natural stone composite. The ultra-durable material, in three colours, resists scratches and stains. blancocanada.com

4 A FINE BALANCE

Local design retailer **Mjolk** commissioned Oji Masanori of Japan to design a line of ceramic tableware and two lights, including this brushed brass luminaire with a reading lamp and an upcasting bowl. mjolk.ca, o-ji.jp



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5 LONDON MARKET

British designer **Tom Dixon** was a major player at IDS. His pop-up shop – hosted by Klaus by Nienkamper – featured plenty of his instantly recognizable glitzy-meets-refined wares, such as the amorphous Melt pendants. tomdixon.net, klausn.com

6 ICE BREAKER

Caesarstone's Ice concept kitchen, by international guest of honour Tom Dixon, featured unique angular counters and stools, reminiscent of jagged ice. Notched cut-outs added an intriguing sense of fragility to the super-strong material. caesarstone.ca

7 DETAIL ORIENTED

Coolican & Company released two handcrafted chairs that exemplify the local small-batch furniture maker's attention to detail. The Edwin, with brass peg details, is a modern take on the classic Windsor chair. coolicanandcompany.com

8 RESTORATION STYLE

At the Come Up To My Room exhibit, Detroit's **Michael Neville** deconstructed the contents of a hotel room, circa 1890, encasing the furniture in a thick layer of pulped paper. comeuptomyroom.com, michaelnevilledesign.com

9 GALLERY WALL

For Umbra's Compact Living exhibit of prototypes for small spaces, **Six Point Un** of Quebec City shone. Its Modular Kitchen Storage System goes vertical to reclaim unused wall space. sixpointun.ca, umbra.com

10 MOOD LIGHTING

Walking the line between modern and vintage, **Lightmaker Studio** mixes rich cast brass, hand-blown glass and polished steel. It launched seven designs at IDS, including the right-angled Caspar table lamp. lightmakerstudio.com

11 QUALITY INGREDIENTS

Toronto's Burdifilek designed **Avani's** sophisticated kitchen, winner of this year's Best Booth award, with hefty marble slabs, six metres of sleek cabinetry, and a magnetic lighting system by Flos. avanikitchens.com, burdifilek.com



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