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Chairs that were, chairs that are, the moment at Salone del Mobile Milano 2021

Perfectly manifesting anthropology and design, the chair has always been an ubiquitous furniture form. Here are STIR's picks of iconic and new chairs, sitting to inspire at Supersalone.

by Jincy Iype | Published on : Sep 09, 2021

Chairs have been around for centuries. They have existed to dictate social and economic class (a queen's throne vs. a pauper's stool), or varied services (a dentist's chair, a Pope's seat) and for pure function, like seats in a metro train or in a classroom. The modern working and capitalist society spends more time sitting on chairs than anywhere else – you literally find them everywhere, from park benches, formal ones in workplaces, to row seats in stadiums and demure ones in hospital waiting rooms, even ones you cannot sit on, in museums. It really is the most common, ubiquitous form of furniture design.

"Because no other object has ever better summed up the importance of design, whether it reflects a passing fad or a cornerstone of civilisation. This awareness is the starting point for a unique narrative journey from 1954 to the present day, depicting the role that chair design has played in its many and varied iterations through the tremendous changes that society has undergone, and how it has reacted to cultural paradigm shifts with ingenuity and utterly inspired approaches and forms," says Nina Bassoli, curator of the unmissable *Take Your Seat* exhibition at Milan Design Week 2021.

5. Urania by Pietro Franceschini

Urania is the latest work by architect Franceschini, presented during the Supersalone exclusively for Galerie Philia as part of the ongoing *Rick Owens – Dialog with Emerging Italian Designers* exhibition. This focuses on Rick Owens's designs, questioned, and referenced by the exhibiting professionals, along with his own impactful artworks.



Urania by Pietro Franceschini on display at Galerie Philia for Supersalone
Image: Lodovico Colli Di Felizzano @Lodoclick

Robot-sculpted in Carrara from a single block of Breccia di Capraia marble and refined by hand, *Urania* is part sculpture and part furniture, a limited edition of 8+4 chairs, an experiment in 'neotenic design'. "Here for the first time, the pure and rigorous geometry of Pietro's work gets deformed and speaks a more organic language. *Urania* is iconic, classic and playful," the gallery observes.