

GALERIE PHILIA Φ

DESIGN NEWS / LAKE COMO DESIGN FESTIVAL, ITALY

Open season

Lake Como Design Festival, whose fourth iteration wrapped up over the weekend, has aimed, since its foundation in 2018, to encourage attendees to look beyond the area's waterside activities. "It's about focusing on the architectural and historical heritage of the city," says Lorenzo Butti, the event's founder and artistic director.

To do this, Butti opens buildings that are typically closed to the public, furnishing them with works from Italian and foreign galleries and designers. At this year's event, for instance, Geneva-based Galerie Philia exhibited an array of pieces in the lakefront Casa Bianca. Our pick of the bunch includes the new Etérea end table by US-Italian studio Karu Design, which was conceived in Los Angeles and handcrafted with Calacatta marble in Tuscany (*pictured, top*), and luminaires by Warsaw-based lighting designer Jan Garncarek (*pictured, bottom*).



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Though the works are now available for purchase through the gallery, Butti recommends keeping an eye out for next summer's festival. "It's not just another commercial fair or one of the 800 events at Salone," he says. Instead, it's a celebration of Como's architecture and creative scene, where people can also pick up collectable design wares.

lakecomodesignfestival.com