

Art Fairs

See the 10 Hottest Objects at This Year's Design Miami/ Basel

From futuristic cars to Sottsass cabinets, here are our picks of the most memorable objects at the design fair—and the backstories that come along with them.

Julia Halperin, June 16, 2017

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Styrofoam chairs, Art Nouveau vases, and futuristic cars are among the eclectic objects on view at this year's Design Miami/ Basel, the Swiss outpost of the high-end design fair. With 18 galleries, six of which are new additions, the event—across the street from Art Basel—is an easily digestible snack compared to the seemingly endless feast that is the main fair. Here are our picks of the most memorable objects from this jewel-box affair.



The Galerie Patrick Seguin booth featuring the Demountable House at DesignMiami/Basel 2017.

JEAN PROUVÉ

6x9 Demountable House (1944)

Galerie Patrick Seguin (Paris)

This is not the first time the gallery has assembled an entire Prouvé house inside the Messe Basel, but it is the first time it has presented quite so timely a selection—the dwelling takes on new meaning in the midst of the refugee crisis. The modest wood-and-metal house was designed by the French architect to rehouse homeless war victims in Lorraine toward the end of World War I. The gallery's Laurence Seguin estimates that 150 to 200 such homes were produced as part of an initial order from the Ministry of Reconstruction and Town Planning. "It's really the beginning of prefab—all the elements were made in a factory," Seguin says. The houses were designed to take three people just one day to construct—but most have since been destroyed. This version, which was deconstructed in Lorraine, restored, and reassembled before being brought to Basel, costs €1.2 million.