



**THE NEW
FLUIDITY**

DORNBRACHT
PERSPECTIVES VOL.2

DORN
BRACHT

“FLUID DESIGN OPENS UP NEW CREATIVE FREEDOMS. BOUNDARIES BECOME POSSIBILITIES.”

CAROLINE SCHMITT
GENERAL MANAGEMENT DORNBRACHT

Our present is defined by continuous transformation. Social shifts, technological disruption, and evolving models of living and working call for a new kind of flexibility. This reality is reflected in our built environment, where design and architecture respond to complex demands and are conceived with increasing adaptability and contextual sensitivity.

Fluid design translates this zeitgeist into forms, materials, and spatial structures. Soft contours and flowing floor plans, transparency, and digital augmentation create spaces that respond dynamically to changing moods, needs, and modes of use.

This issue of Dornbracht Perspectives explores expressions of fluidity: how they are reshaping our perception of architecture and design, what possibilities they open up, and where they challenge us to rethink spaces and objects. Fluidity is more than an aesthetic concept – it is a tool for addressing the challenges of a dynamic world.



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01 SEAMLESS SHAPES

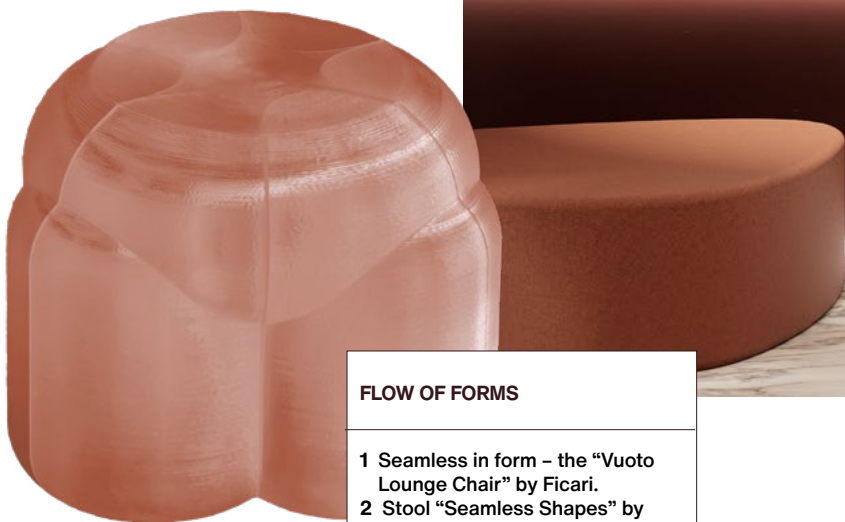
02 DYNAMIC SPACES

03 TRANSLUCENT MATERIALS

04 GENTLE FUSIONS

05 EVOLVING REALITIES

01 SEAMLESS SHAPES



FLOW OF FORMS

- 1 Seamless in form - the "Vuoto Lounge Chair" by Ficari.
- 2 Stool "Seamless Shapes" by Jelly Objects.
- 3 "Arnaldo Doorways" from the Arnaldo Collection by Paddy Pike Studio: an organically shaped doorway in polished steel.
- 4 Dornbracht: architectural concept for the VAIA faucet series.

Fluid design draws on the ergonomics of the human body and aesthetic principles derived from nature. Curved lines, voluminous forms, soft transitions – everything appears to flow. The organic silhouettes resist geometric clarity and play with ambivalence. At the same time, they evoke familiar forms that return in new contexts.



02 DYNAMIC SPACES

Interiors in motion: geometric minimalism gives way to a softer, more intuitive spatial aesthetic. Living and functional areas are no longer strictly zoned – they merge and connect. Rounded walls and ceilings, sculptural arches, and fluid layouts allow the eye to move freely. Spaces become more open and adaptive, enhancing both accessibility and the quality of experience.



CURVES AND CONTINUITY

1 Minor Lab, "Paradiso": exhibition design for Taikang Space. The space is staged as a soft, open landscape shaped by inflatable air cushions.

2 and 3 Meiré and Meiré: concept sketches of fluid spaces using transparent textiles and variable zoning.

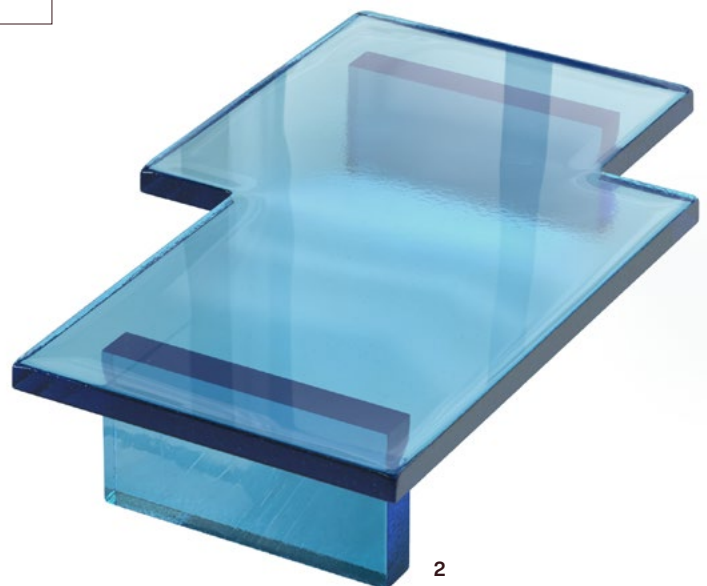
03 TRANSLUCENT MATERIALS



Translucent materials – such as light-permeable textiles, glass, or membranes – enrich spaces through their particular properties. By transmitting, reflecting, or diffusing light, they generate dynamic effects and subtle shifts of colour. As a design element, they can introduce depth, create tension, and structure space without diminishing the sense of openness.

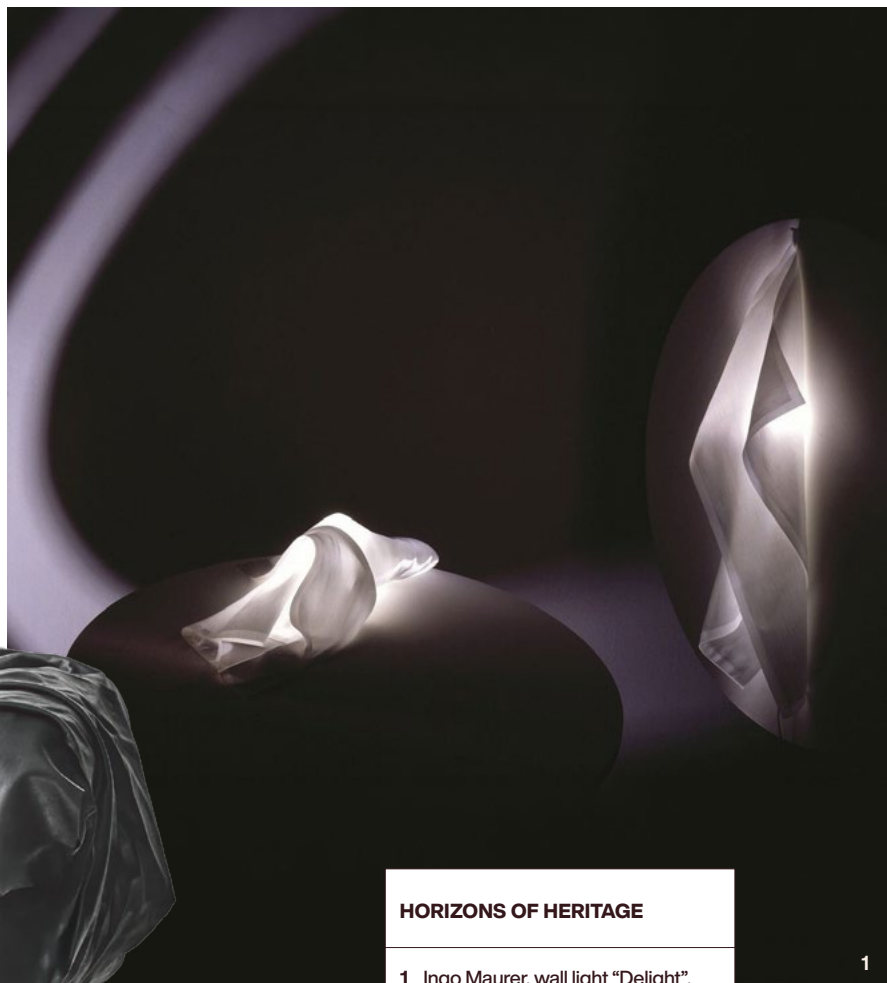
LIGHTNESS OF LIGHT

- 1 Symbolplus, Head Office in Tokyo: Shoji sliding doors with translucent washi paper serve as flexible room dividers.
- 2 Clive Lonstein exclusively for Studiotwentyseven: "Glass 003 Coffee Table 60".
- 3 Shomu Taki / Rikiya Toyoshima: "Border", a furniture collection made from hollow polycarbonate.
- 4 Dornbracht: Handles for the CL.1 design series in coloured, ribbed glass.



04 GENTLE FUSIONS

Fluid design as a synthesis – of old and new, craft and technology, tradition and innovation. Familiar motifs and archetypes are fragmented and transformed, recycled and recombined. Proven materials appear in experimental combinations, and historical ornament is reinterpreted.



HORIZONS OF HERITAGE

- 1 Ingo Maurer, wall light "Delight", designed by Frans van Nieuwen. A heat-resistant fibreglass cloth in the form of a classic kitchen towel is illuminated by a single bulb.
- 2 Katja Pargger, "Skin Series Chair" – a liaison of aluminium and leather.
- 3 Kiki Goti: Low Table from the "Bells and Whistles" collection. Warm materials meet cold, ornament meets function, tradition meets the present.



2



3

05 EVOLVING REALITIES

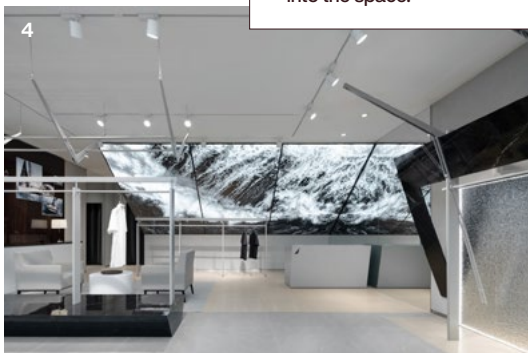


PLAYS ON PERCEPTION

1 and 2 Future Simple Studio: interior design for the Recess Thermal Station in Montréal. Projections become part of the spatial experience.

3 Fumihiko Sano Studio: immersive showroom for Nippori Kako.

4 Chen Ling SLT Design, store design for the Nautica Black Label boutique: large LED screens project the vastness of the ocean into the space.



Immersive technologies such as projections, light installations, and augmented reality extend physical space. They give rise to fluid spheres in which the boundaries between reality and imagination dissolve. Architecture becomes an interface between people and their environment, responding to movement, mood, and context – creating adaptive, experiential spaces in constant transformation.



EMBRACING FLUIDITY

COYA

The COYA series unites opposites in a striking harmony. Its design is based on a distinctive "squircle" form, combining circle and square within a fluid contour. Find out more. [Find out more ↗](#)



A WORLD IN BETWEEN

COYA's fluid design language extends into an architecture where different worlds merge. Translucent curtains enable flexible zoning of the bathroom, serving as a canvas for changing scenarios and moods. Soft, flowing contours, organic forms, and gentle colours give rise to a space that moves between worlds – between dream and reality.

INSPIRING YOUR VISION

What drives design – today and tomorrow?

The Dornbracht Perspectives series invites readers to explore architecture and design from new angles. At its core: inspiring questions and viewpoints that challenge us to rethink the familiar. Impulses that enrich creative practice – and expand the conversation about what design can be today.



Register now for the Dornbracht newsletter to receive regular information on new products, current design trends and our services.

<http://www.dornbracht.com/company/newsletter>

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IMPRESSUM

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Köbbingser Mühle 6
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Product Design
Sieger Design

Concept, Creation
and Editing
Meiré und Meiré, Cologne

01

On global future trends: “Future Forecast 2026” and “Future Five 2026” by the The Future Laboratory
www.thefuturelaboratory.com/reports

02

On current design trends: “Gensler Design Forecast 2026”,
www.gensler.com/doc/gensler-design-forecast-2026.pdf, and: “2026 ASID Trends Outlook”, <https://www.asid.org/resources/resources/view/resource-center/393>

03

“The Neuropsychology of Space: Designing Environments for Emotional Well-being”, www.asid.org/news/the-neuropsychology-of-space-designing-environments-for-emotional-well-being

04

“The Spaces Between: Exploring the Psychology of Transitional Spaces”, www.architizer.com/blog/practice/details/the-spaces-between-psychology-of-transitional-spaces

All online sources were last accessed on 30 March 2026.

MOOD SOURCES

01 Seamless Shapes

(1) www.ficari.com/
www.instagram.com/ficarihome/
Photography: Ficari Team
(2) Photography: Hannes Heitmüller
(3) Photography: Paddy Pike

02 Dynamic Spaces

(1) Photography: Zhao Dan

03 Translucent Materials

(1) SYMBOL +, SYMBOLPLUS INC.
Photography: Keishin Horikoshi
(2) Photography: Clive Lonstein
(3) BORDER, Designer: PULSE Shomu Taki, Rikiya Toyoshima
Manufacturer: Tanaka Kaken Co., Ltd.
Photography: Tomoro Nakasuji

04 Gentle Fusions

(1) Photography: Tom Vack
(2) Photography: Mathilde Hiley
(3) Photography: Alejandro Ramírez Orozco

05 Evolving Realities

(1) Photography: Félix Michaud
(2) Photography: Félix Michaud
(3) Photography: Daisuke Shima
(4) Photography: Vincent Wu