

APR 22 2021

SURFACE

# DESIGN DISPATCH

A monument to fallen migrants, Apple's candy-colored iMacs, and crypto horses.

FIRST THIS

“We need to shift to a more thoughtful, balanced value system before we can produce any meaningful change.”

Presley Oldham

HERE'S THE LATEST



**The *Barca*  
*Nostra* Will  
Become a**



# Human Rights Monument

**What's Happening:** After sitting dormant for years following its controversial inclusion in the Venice Biennale, the *Barca Nostra* has returned to Sicily. The former fishing vessel—a relic of one of the deadliest shipwrecks in recent memory—will be reimagined as a monument to the thousands of North African migrants lost in the Mediterranean.

**The Download:** In April 2015, a giant boat carrying an estimated 800 to 1,100 Libyan migrants sank in the Mediterranean, killing all but 28. After the Italian navy recovered the vessel the following year, the Swiss-Icelandic artist Christoph Büchel transported the wreckage to the 2019 Venice Biennale to raise awareness of the migrant crisis. It polarized critics—some deemed it insensitive, others commended its powerful message, and more objected to the artist's decision to not provide explanatory labels about the boat's tragic history.

After years of the *Barca Nostra* controversially sitting in Venice's Arsenale following the show, the vessel has made its final voyage back to Augusta, Sicily, where it will undergo urgent maintenance and ultimately be re-envisioned as a human rights monument. Augusta officials will place the ship as the centerpiece in a "Garden of Memory" that commemorates the thousands of migrants lost at sea—a tangible symbol of Europe's failure to implement effective migration policies. Forensic scientists, meanwhile, have been laboring intensively to sample, photograph, and recover human remains from the shipwreck site to identify victims.



**In Their Own Words:** “For us, the passenger manifest is the most important thing, because by naming victims you’re acknowledging them as persons,” Jose Pablo Baraybar Do Carmo, a transregional forensic coordinator at the Red Cross, tells the New York Times. “It’s important to remove these people from invisibility.”

Giuseppe di Mare, the mayor of Augusta, envisions the garden as a site that “will have to be in the open, because that boat gives a sense of the sea, the air, the skies,” he says. “To enclose it in a building would clash with its story. The ship has attained an international dimension and we want this garden to become a place of reflection for the world, so that all people can ponder.”

**Surface Says:** So far, the forensic scientists have leads on 474 victims—a sign of great progress. Still, we hope all parties take their time to ensure the victims and their families get their due.

## What Else Is Happening?



Apple reveals unexpectedly colorful products at its spring product launch event.



Chicago increases its public art budget by 15,000 percent for a new cultural program.



Crib bumpers, originally designed to protect infants, have been linked to many deaths.



Kris Van Assche departs men's label Berluti as creative director after three years at the helm.



Did the Boring Company's Hyperloop between Baltimore and Washington get canceled?

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#### PROJECT SPOTLIGHT



## A Miami Beach Estate Inspired by Gio Ponti and Midcentury Magic City

In a sign of the times, Italian architect Achille Salvagni completed his first ground-up project in the U.S. without ever stepping foot in the country: Covid travel restrictions forced the designer to oversee every last detail of the Miami Beach residence from his apartment in Rome. Often working through the night to coincide with the East Coast time zone and using remote video calls, he directed the precise placement for the interior installation including the furniture, carpets, fabrics, lighting, cabinetry, and artworks.

One look at the \$21 million private estate along the waterfront of Surprise Lake, whose arching stark white architecture pays homage to retro 1950s Miami, and it's clear the remote orchestration didn't hamper Salvagni's vision one bit. It's a remarkable feat, but not a surprising one. On his way to designing luscious yacht interiors and celebrated furniture collections, Salvagni has earned renown for his ability to apply the materiality and precision of the midcentury Italian masters to his modernist sensibility. Case in point: inside the contemporary shell of 810 Lakeview Drive lies a trove of antique furniture from boldfaced names such as Paolo Buffa, Stilnovo, FontanaArte, Serge Mouille, Pierre Guariche, and Marco Zanuso.

TAKE THE TOUR

ARTIST STATEMENT



# A Luminous Pavilion Where Breathing Flows Freely



At a meditative new installation by Ekene Ijeoma, viewers inhale and exhale within a giant circle of inflatable columns that change in brightness to illustrate soothing breathing techniques.

**Bio:** Ekene Ijeoma, 36, Brooklyn.

**Title of work:** *Breathing Pavilion*.

**Where to see it:** The Plaza at 300 Ashland Place, Brooklyn, until May 11.

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FROM THE ARCHIVES





# Surface Covers NFT Auction: Azzedine Alaïa

Before passing in 2017 at the age of 82, Azzedine Alaïa was one of the world's great living couturiers—more an artist than simply a fashion designer. Starting in the '70s, he made a name for himself not just for his meticulous approach to creating clothes, but also for his kindness, trenchant wit, and aversion to press coverage and awards. High-profile power women—Naomi Campbell, Carine Roitfeld, and Michelle Obama number among the devoted—have been wearing his figure-flattering, clingy, swingy knit dresses and goddess gowns since 1979.

We're thrilled to announce an NFT auction of Azzedine Alaïa's *Surface* cover. The auction, taking place on OpenSea, is now open through Friday, April 23.

Each *Surface* Covers NFT will include both a JPG and live cover MP4 file. (Think the moving paintings in *Harry Potter*.) Additionally, each *Surface* Covers NFT will be packaged with a folder of exclusive content that will unlock after purchase (a collection of BTS images from the cover shoot, star-studded event photos from the issue launch, videos, and more.) *Surface* will also feature a digital gallery of just-sold covers on SurfaceMag.com, with the opportunity for buyers to be listed alongside their purchased cover (or they can stay anonymous if preferred.)

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## ICYMI: Kelly Behun's New Living Gallery Uplifts Makers of All Types

Kelly Behun doesn't often brag about her own work. Though she's amassed a sizable Instagram presence of nearly 250,000 followers, the award-winning interior designer has largely dedicated her platform to uplifting the work of her favorite makers, past and present, that have influenced her sensibilities in some way—a mood reinforced by the phrase “inspired by how clever you are” on her profile. That ethos pervades her new living gallery concept at [1228 Madison Avenue](#), which offers a hand-picked presentation of furnishings, artwork, and objects across a full-floor, four-bedroom apartment in a stately Upper East Side building designed by Robert A.M. Stern Architects.

Inside, Behun's intuitive approach to masterminding richly layered interiors is on full display. Each room abounds with recognizable classics and newly commissioned one-offs that conjure an inviting atmosphere replete with discoveries that'll captivate even the most seasoned design enthusiasts.





A new take on the all-American roundtrip: When furniture fairs—and with them, the opportunity to meet clients and dealers—were canceled in 2020 due to the global pandemic, Zanotta US’s business director Francesco Secchiaroli took matters into his own hands and gave new meaning to “remote working.” Eschewing typical digital meetings, he masked up and found a safe way to travel North America (from New York to San Diego, then up through California and across to Toronto and took the company’s new collections, as well as a few iconic pieces from the catalog, to those who needed to see them.

Along the way, Secchiaroli was taken by breathtaking views and decided to photograph the furniture alongside these striking backdrops. The result is a charming portfolio that mixes great design with impressive natural landscapes.

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## Member Spotlight: Sunday Goods

Sunday Goods is a vertically integrated cannabis company located in Arizona that exists to help people feel good with a cannabis experience that's just right for them. Whether for relief, a pathway to creativity, or simply an elevated state of being, everyone stands to benefit from the liberating power of this plant.

**Surface Says:** One of the forerunners of the stylish cannabis movement, Sunday Goods pairs contemporary aesthetics with all-natural, high-integrity sourcing and growing methods that respect and preserve the plant's original qualities.

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AND FINALLY



## Today's Attractive Distractions

This curious machine repurposes microplastics into injectable tattoo ink.

A visual journalist's playful sketches help explain climate change to children.

People are spending real money to breed digital horses on the blockchain.

Michelangelo's David receives a 3D-printed twin that weighs ten times less.



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