

## Inside Out

Throwing open the doors to embrace the sun is a time honoured tradition. Socially and sustainably, outdoor living is ideal, but it's also aesthetically where design hunters can have the most fun. So whether you're entertaining, relaxing or eating – the key reasons for stepping outside – we've found the latest trends for a life less covered.

### Entertain

Italian wallpaper company Wall&Decò has designed OUT (Outdoor Unconventional Texture), an art decoration system for outside walls. Applied using a three-stage process, it's ideal for any outdoor surface or damp environment, presented in a variety of bold patterns and landscape effects.

The designers, Christian Benini and Giovanni Pagani, were inspired by American urban graffiti, and wanted to explore graphics and aesthetics typical of interiors in an outdoor context. "From my point of view, the most interesting potential of OUT is the possibility to reinterpret and reinvent forgotten urban spaces," Benini says.

The two also constantly collaborate with other creatives in designing new patterns. "These collaborations have helped to determine the unique design and artistic creativity which lies behind the Wall&Decò wall decorations," Benini says.

Wall&Decò's Outdoor Unconventional Texture (OUT) exterior decoration in Tokyo Stripes





The seamless interior/  
exterior of Ariane Prevost  
Architect's Marimekko  
House in Western Australia.  
Photography Bo Wong

## Living

\_\_\_\_\_ Ariane Prevost's award-winning Marimekko House in Western Australia fits the entertaining bill brilliantly. The architect designed the house last year for her family, carefully considering the property as an entire package. "Outdoor rooms are virtually free spaces that you can incorporate into your home," she says. "They're the most economical and create the most joy because you get the air and the light."

Each room in Marimekko House has an outdoor aspect: "Every threshold flows from one to another," she says. "So you can be inside or outside all the time." There are about five or six aspects, including a roof-top garden, deck off the living room and a cantilevered terrace with a cook's fireplace. "The climate is such that walls just disappear," she laughs.

The project also showcases her new philosophy – to enjoy more for less. "I'm a trend setter," she says. "Every decision was made by whether it feels good and there is something very beautiful about simple living." It's a response to Mies van der Rohe's celebrated claim that simplicity brings enjoyment. "You should always be able to enjoy summer and winter. You can still sit outdoors with the wind in your face – it's about being clever."



The exterior view of  
Marimekko House  
showcases the generous  
deck off the living room.  
Photography Bo Wong

Below—Available from Cosh Living, the Zendo range from Manutti is hard-wearing and stylish

Right—Launched at Eurocucina 2012, this technologically advanced refractory stone-lined oven is by Smeg



## Relax

\_\_\_\_\_ Prevost also says that the integration between indoor and outdoor is creating more demand for designer outdoor furniture.

Luckily, European designers this summer have been answering the demand. They've been busy developing materials for the harsh Australian environment, according to Cosh Living's sales and marketing executive, Gabrielle Kupke. At the Milan Design Week 2012, the hottest looks focused on practicality, style and comfort.

"Popularity is shifting from traditional woven products and outdoor cushions to furniture covered entirely with waterproof nautic leathers, waterproof 'hot melt' fabrics and sling," Kupke says. Cosh Living has launched two new products featuring

this technology: the Zendo range from Manutti and the Natal Alu Sofa, designed by Studio Segers.

Available in three colours and fabrics, the Zendo range offers cubic seating units made from the materials used on yachts, while the Natal Alu Sofa features an aluminium frame covered with plaited bands of textilene. "This new technology is becoming highly sought after as an alternative to cushions that cannot be sat in moments after the rain passes, and are great for the winter entertaining season," Kupke says.

Parterre's Johanna Clarke says another trend in fabric technology is Stamskin.

"It's a synthetic fabric that feels like leather, made by Ferrari in France. It has

long-term durability and a high UV resistance," she says. As for designs to encourage relaxing, Parterre has launched the new Max Manta umbrella from Tuuci. Reminiscent of an outstretched bat, the sleek form is available in assorted sizes and colours.

Parterre's most exciting launch is Gandia Blasco's Cristal Box. Made from lacquered aluminium and galvanized steel, the outdoor pergola system allows the user to instantly create a room outside. Buyers can pay more to add glass or choose a bigger size if more room is needed. "The outdoor room is becoming a showcase of design which complements the interior without competing with it. Only the best design can achieve this," Clarke says.



## Eat

\_\_\_\_\_ Manufacturers are coming to the party too. Earlier this year, ASKO launched the world's first dishwasher for outdoor use. The Scandinavian-designed Alfresco Dishwasher is made from stainless steel and features baskets that cater for bulkier items, such as platters and barbecue utensils. Lisa Sutcliffe, ASKO's sales and marketing executive says: "We realised there was a gap in the market for a dishwasher that was designed for alfresco dining areas, and so we saw this as a great opportunity to fill the gap with a new and innovative product."

Smeg is also stepping outside, according to Australia's managing director, Andrew Cronin. "The barbecue has always been integral to Australians' outdoor entertaining experience, but they have now become far more sophisticated in their approach to food and entertaining. We want the appliances that will enable them to do this," he says.

At Eurocucina 2012, Smeg released a new stone oven concept product. Essentially an oven lined in stone, it is designed for both slow cooking and more heat intensive dishes, such as pizza, and becomes 'seasoned' with bigger flavours and aromas over time. "Basically, slow cooking is going to take off around the world. This will result in even more beautiful and fuel-efficient appliances for this market," Cronin says.

In that same vein, Cosh Living recently launched Indu+, a kitchen on wheels featuring modular induction hobs and rolling trolleys. The induction hobs enable food to be cooked quickly using less energy, while the wheels allow for flexibility wherever it is needed – further blurring inside and outside.

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