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Note Design Studio at Stockholm Design Week 3–9 February 2020



Candid chair by Note Design Studio for Zilio A&C.

"Everything is more personal in Stockholm"

– Kristoffer Fagerström, partner and product designer, Note Design Studio

For the 2020 edition of Stockholm Design Week, Swedish interdisciplinary design studio Note continues to push boundaries and ambitions, with a raft of new product launches (including its first outdoor sofa), exciting new client collaborations, more stand designs than ever before, and a major exhibition at Bukowskis auction house that is set to showcase the artistic side of the studio.

Stockholm Design Week is one of the most important events on Note's calendar. More than 50% of the studio's work is international, so the event gives Note an

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opportunity to showcase its talents on home turf, to both global and local audiences, in a more intimate and controlled fashion than is possible at sprawling, less personal events.

Wherever they go in the city, visitors to this year's festival will never be far from a Note design project.

Product launches

In a bumper year for Note product launches, the studio returns to Stockholm Design Week and Furniture Fair to reveal new designs for long-standing collaborators including Italian wooden furniture brand Zilio A&C, Swedish furniture specialist Fogia, and lighting brand Zero.

This year will also see the debut appearance of Note products and collections with new partners, including Danish furniture brand Labofa and recently launched Japanese design house Ariake, as well as a collaboration with Swedish design legend Gunilla Allard for the sustainable urban furniture developer Nola.



Lounge furniture by Note Design Studio for Labofa.

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A new chair for Zilio A&C

Stockholm Furniture Fair, C05: 20
4–8 February 2020

Two years after the launch of Zilio's Arkad seating collection in 2018, Note is consolidating the pouffe family with the launch of a new piece featuring a low backrest. Like the existing Arkad seats, the new piece is playful and graphic, inspired by the repetitive pattern of the classic arcade.

Note is also behind a new chair design, named Candid, for Zilio A&C. Available in stained ash, with an optional cushioned seat, the chair stems from Note's unfulfilled search for a straightforward chair for its interiors projects. True to the studio's 'if we can't find it, we design it' approach, Note created Candid to be a versatile, materially honest chair for numerous environments, from restaurants to the home.

Aided by Zilio's craftsmanship and expertise, Note were able to make the chair's dimensions extremely compact, maximising space efficiency without compromising comfort or robustness.

Striking lounge furniture for Labofa

Note's first collaboration with Labofa represents an attempt to create an expressive, original and striking design for lounge furniture. The bold, progressive design for the armchair and sofa was – literally – sketched on the bank of a napkin on a train ride.

Note moved on to prototyping directly from the sketching phase, creating the collection on the basis of the first prototype. The chairs are fully upholstered using rough, textured fabrics that calm and complement the head-turning geometry of the design.

A beautiful and multifunctional table for Ariake

Gamla Riksarkivet, Birger Jarls torg 2A
5–7 February

The Ariake brand is the result of a collaboration between two manufacturers, Legnatec and Hirata Chair, from the furniture-making region of Morodomi in Saga, Japan. In 2018, Ariake invited Note to join a group of Scandinavian designers taking part in its annual week-long design workshop programme in Saga – the Sake table is one of the 30 pieces that resulted.

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"We feel that Note shares the same aesthetic sensibilities and cultural sensitivities to the existing Ariake team. We also appreciate that Note works across different disciplines and geographical borders, thus giving Ariake opportunities to share Note's knowledge and design culture."

– Gabriel Tan, art director, Ariake

Available in four different finishes, hand sanded and stained in whitened oak, smoked oak, sumi and indigo ash, the piece fulfils three functions: table, tray and storage unit, making it functionally versatile as well as highly aesthetic.

A fusion of Scandinavian and Japanese design approaches, the table comprises two distinct shapes – a rectangular box that serves as storage, edged by slightly convex battens that form the legs, lifting it just high enough above the ground to convey an impression of lightness and grace. On top, a circular tray with a delicate raised edge can be removed to provide access to the storage area beneath.



From left: Sake table by Note Design Studio for Ariake, a collaboration between Japanese manufacturers Legnatec and Hirata Chair; Supersolid sofa by Note Design Studio for Fogia.

Supersoft sofa for Fogia

Stockholm Furniture Fair, C09:28, C09:30
4–8 February 2020

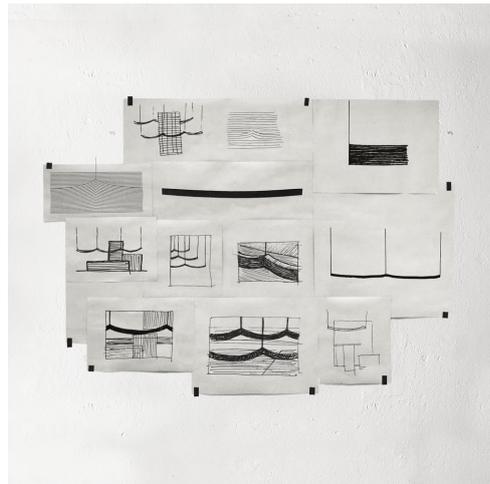
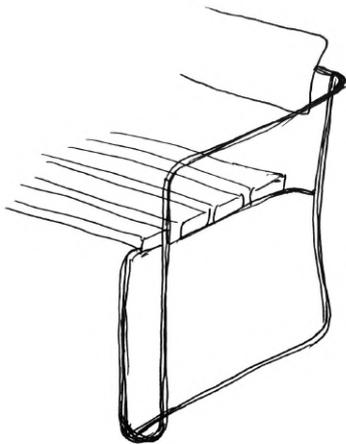
Note has been collaborating with Fogia since 2015, and they have produced more than 12 product lines together. This year, the studio has taken a distinctly playful approach. Based on the observation on a trip to Italy that the sofas of southern Europe tend to be softer and cosier than their more ascetic Scandinavian cousins,

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Note and Fogia set out to redress the balance with the Supersoft sofa – ‘perhaps the softest and cosiest north of the equator’ – which pushes at the limits of how soft you can go without compromising on quality.

Drawing on Fogia’s expertise in upholstered furniture, Note has designed a flexible, generous and comfortable sofa system with almost 20 modules, allowing it to be arranged in an almost limitless number of ways. Fabrics on each module can easily be removed for washing, which gives the system an expanded lifespan, and makes it as well suited to commercial settings as it is to private homes.

Supersolid is a companion range of solid accessories that stand in stark but appealing contrast to Supersoft. Sculpted in hard geometric shapes, the range includes functional pieces such as benches and tables that are functional but artistic in expression.



From left: Drawings for Signum outdoor sofa/bench by Note Design Studio in collaboration with Gunilla Allard, commissioned by Nola; drawings for Landscape, an extracted aluminium pendant light by Note Design Design for Zero.

Outdoor furniture for Nola

Stockholm Furniture Fair, A11:19
4–8 February 2020

Commissioned by Swedish outdoor furniture specialist Nola, Note’s first collaboration with the leading designer Gunilla Allard is Signum – a flexible, moveable, stackable outdoor sofa/bench with a metal frame and an oak seat.

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The Signum concept is rooted in research into the work of architects, particularly Sigurd Lewerentz – a design for the future building on the successes of the past. The aim was to create a piece of versatile outdoor furniture that could withstand the rigours of the Nordic climate. Graphic in form, the design works well as a fixed piece of street furniture, but the ease with which it can be moved, stacked and stored also makes it ideal for settings such as parks or golf courses.

The production process prioritises sustainability and CO2 efficiency. The choice of materials, and the two-phase surface treatments ensure the longevity of the furniture, whereas the fibre-cutting process used on the metal frame is four times faster than laser-cutting, which makes linear production a highly efficient process.

Natural lighting for Zero

Södermalmsallén 36, 118 28, Stockholm
3–7 February

Lighting is a prevailing interest for Note, and one of the most influential tools the studio employs when designing space. Consequently, the long-standing relationship with office lighting brand Zero is hugely important to the studio, and Note is delighted to be returning to Stockholm with a new aluminium lamp.

Landscape is an extracted aluminium light that, in response to the non-linearity of nature, sets out to transform environments that – like offices – are associated with straight lines and repetitive structures. Gently arched and seemingly invisibly suspended from the ceiling, the lamps introduces a soft, warm character to the room, encouraging people to raise their eyes and appreciate the oft-forgotten space above.

Each pendant lamp can be used to striking effect on its own or hung in combination with others, creating a continuous silhouette reminiscent of the mountain vistas that inspired the design.

Stands at Stockholm Furniture Fair

Note's stand designs for Stockholm Furniture Fair have become a highlight of the event – for visitors, partner brands and the studio itself. For Note, stand design is a form of architecture in microcosm, and an opportunity to explore shapes, forms and materials, while helping their clients build their brands and secure sales.

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Model of Supersoft sofa by Note Design Studio for Fogia.

"Stand design is an opportunity to push forward our expression and test our own limits, without the constraints of time or construction. It involves strategy, spatial identity, graphic design and everything we excel at. We love this work."
– Kristoffer Fagerström, partner and product designer, Note Design Studio

In 2020, Note is behind the concept and creation of seven stands for nine partner brands – more than ever before.

Following a successful series of exhibitions with international floor-covering brand **Tarkett** (C11: 31) – including sculptural vinyl installation Snowtopped in Stockholm last year, and the festival-highlight Formations in Milan 2019 – Note is marking the launch of Tarkett's new bio-based IQ Natural surface materials by creating Natural Bond – a phoenix sculpture made from recycled wood parquet. As with Formations, the stand can be dismantled for exhibitions elsewhere or returned to the production cycle for reuse.

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In another sustainability-focused project, Note are once again working with Norway's leading urban furniture brand, **Vestre** (A06:13). This year, the studio is creating a stand from raw, unfinished urban materials such as porotherm bricks, plywood, stone, and polycarbonate plastic sheeting. These will be fully demountable, in accordance with Vestre's exemplary sustainability standards.

The Tapwell group (AG:50) have charged Note with representing three of its divisions through a single stand: Tapwell faucets, bathroom furniture and fittings from Haven (designed by Note), and tiles by Bricmate. Representing the first time all three have exhibited as a single unit, Note is presenting a monumental installation that uses ideas of repetition, symmetry and framing to give each brand a distinctive platform within a pared-back space (also housing an Italian café).

With long-standing collaborator **Ogeborg** (A06:21), Note is exploring 'the theory of material' in a colour-coordinated, elevated textile world encompassing walls and floors carpeted in contrasting hues of brown and blue. For Swedish lighting specialists Pholc (A06:28), Note will be recreating the stand they unveiled in Milan 2019, and in the studio's first spatial work for textile brand **Astrid** (A05:10), Note are translating their showroom textile lab into an upscaled, grid with free-flowing textiles pouring down from a height of five metres. The stand is further enhanced by uniforms for Astrid staff in the brand's own textiles, as well as textile samples Note-designed envelopes, and in tote bags sewn from scrap fabric.

Finally, for Nordic home brand **Fogia** (C09:28, C09:30), Note have twice as much space to play with than previous years, so will be creating an arena-like space to showcase Fogia's new furniture collections.

Exhibitions

Bukowskis Adjectives

Bukowskis, Arsenalsgatan 2
4-8 February

In the beautiful setting of Stockholm's most prestigious auction house for fine art and design, Note presents Bukowskis Adjectives, a collaborative exhibition with Vibia, Kvadrat and Mutina.

A spatial exploration of the intersection and contrast between colour, materiality, object and light, Adjectives fills the gallery space with art pieces from the

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participating brands, each representing a different material quality. Light and colour come from Vibia (featuring Note's own Chromatica lamps), softness and tactility from Kvadrat's textiles, and hardness and solidity from surface designer Mutina.

Flying Panels: How Concrete Changed the World

Swedish Centre for Architecture and Design

Until 1 March 2020



Installation shot of Note Design Studio's Flying Panels exhibition at the Swedish Centre for Architecture and Design.

Alongside Adjectives, the Note-designed exhibition Flying Panels: How Concrete Changed the World continues at the Swedish Centre for Architecture and Design, ArkDes, until 1 March. Free to enter, the exhibition presents a fascinating history of how the concrete panel transformed urban landscapes across the globe in the postwar era, embodying the optimistic spirit of the age.

These exhibition projects reflect Note's growing interest in the use of design to engage and educate in teaching environments such as museums.

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Notes to editors

For more information, images and interviews with Note Design Studio, please contact note@zetteler.co.uk or on +44 (0)20 3735 5855.

About Note Design Studio

Founded in 2008 by Johannes Carlström and Cristiano Pigazzini, Note is a Stockholm-based design studio working across the fields of architecture, interiors, products, graphic design and design strategy. Now comprising a team of 14 designers, Note has grown to become one of the most internationally admired names in Scandinavian design, working with a wide range of international design brands and winning a steady stream of design awards.

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