

Milk

DECORATION

Featuring: Rafael Prieto – Linde Freya Tangelder
Corpus Studio – Zélikha Dinga – Cordelia de Castellane

TRENDS: THE BEST FURNITURE OF 2023
SHOW: STUDIO MUMBAI AT FONDATION CARTIER
GETTING AWAY: ARCADIA, A GREEN PARADISE

Style and inspiration for contemporary tribes

The "Ring Chair"

— Last October, Demisch Danant announced the death of Parisian designer *Maria Pergay*, who was represented by the New York gallery. As a tribute to her career, we look back at one of her emblematic creations imagined while peeling an orange. —

TEXT: CAROLE DAPREY



In 1967, Maria Pergay (1930-2023) created her first pieces of stainless steel furniture at the request of Gérard Martel from French steel manufacturer Ugine-Gueugnon, which wanted to promote its use in interior design. Already well-known for her small decorative objects in silver, she accepted to change scale and explore the possibilities of this new material. Her first experimentations led to the "Flying Carpet Daybed", the "Wave Desk" and the "Ring Chair", which is made up of three concentric sheets of stainless steel that create a spiral effect. The level of finishing is remarkable, especially as laser cutting didn't exist at the time. In 1968, Pergay's first collection was shown at Galerie Maison et Jardin in Paris. It met with success: Pierre Cardin purchased one of every piece and became a loyal customer. Stainless steel was praised for its solidity—*Maison française* called it the "material of the future"—and the iconic chair would even feature in Rainer Werner Fassbinder's 1973 science-fiction telefilm *World on a Wire*.

Alongside her male peers, Jean Garçon, Michel Boyerou and Jacques Charpentier, Maria Pergay was one of the rare women designers to have developed such a passion for steel. Quality of workmanship was an obsession and she worked this industrial material as if it were a precious metal. The "Ring Chair" is simple and graceful and, as Pergay was wont to say, "It's the metal that gives it this strength".



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