

From Paris with love

identity visits Paris Design Week – and Maison & Objet – to scout the new voices in the capital's design scene, with highlights including collections by designers from Lebanon, South Korea and France

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Natural world

Taking cues from the natural world, Beirut-based designer Roula Salamoun introduces her latest pieces: *Archipelago* seats and *Strata* tables. The seats evoke the visual language of insular landscapes seemingly shaped by the passing of time. The tapered base hints at coastal erosion, while the prominent backrest is reminiscent of mountainous highlands. Mimicking island clusters and peninsulas, the organic silhouettes are available in an array of colours and dual textures, reflecting natural environments. Made and upholstered by hand, the

core features foam on a solid wood structure. Similarly, the *Strata* tables are rooted in topographical studies and are an evolution of the designer's rug collection under the same name. The *Strata* tables echo terrain variations, inviting the user to imagine how they came to be. The pieces are hand-cast using resin and natural marble, applied with an intuitive moulding method. To translate the rich colours of the natural realm while being mindful of environmental impact, the designer carefully selected natural stones left over by the construction industry.

