

Marble chair

*“To sculpt means to take away, not to add, because the sculpture already exists inside of the marble. The only thing the sculptor has to do is liberate the figure imprisoned in the marble.”
(Michelangelo)*

Marble as a material of objects whose shape is not pre-defined by a mould or design, but by the decision of the sculptor to call it finished.
An existing marble chair found in Cukurcuma in Istanbul, on which the carving is continued to give the chair a new life, undressed from its ornament.

Simon Heijdens
2007

*Commissioned by Haaz Gallery Istanbul for the Block exhibition, who briefed to work with
turkish marble.*



Antrepo, Istanbul 2007



Block Design Library, Milan - April 2008

Press release

Block exhibition - Turkish marble meets design
Design Library Milan
April 16-21 2008

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Aziz Sariyer
Campana Brothers
Gökhan Avcioğlu
Jurgen Bey
Konstantin Grcic
Marcelo Rosebaum
Marcio Kogan
Michael Young
Paola Navone
Simon Heijdens

Turkish marble, protagonist of civilization down the ages, now revisited with contemporary sensibility.

On display in the Design Library, via Savona, 11 from 16th to 21st April.

Milan, 16th – 21st April 2008 – During the “Fuori Salone”, the Haaz Gallery, Istanbul, is bringing to Milan an exhibition entitled “BLOCK Exhibition: Turkish marble meets design”. The project is being promoted by IMIB (Istanbul Mineral Exporter’s Association) ultimate role is promoting the traditionally valued material marble of Turkey in the world’s mainstream.

On show in the Design Library (via Savona 11), a selection of works from the full version of the exhibition carried out in Istanbul in November 2007, organized by the Haaz Gallery. The items have been created by 18 internationally renowned designers, all engaged in a stimulating dialogue with a material of extraordinary historical resonance and countless symbolic and legendary connotations. Turkish marble, originally from the fabulous quarries of the Island of Marmara, has for centuries been a material of choice for architects and sculptors in some of the greatest civilizations. It is now, for the first time, a medium for contemporary design.

Unpredictable results. All one-off pieces. Like the extraordinary interweaving of natural fibres and marble experimented by the Campana Brothers, or the marble sofa designed by Paola Navone. While Matali Crasset draws on the sculptural expressiveness of this millennial stone in a robot with a vanity shelf, and Jurgen Bey sculpts packages in marble to hold hair-dryers and irons, with a cavity for plugs and leads as well. Different visions that have taken shape because designers can work with craftsmen who have been guarding Turkish marble working techniques for generations. The collection gives new impetus to our culture of materials, in an encounter between contemporary sensibility and the expressive potential of ancient stone. Marble is a symbol of luxury, majesty and plasticity, but also of nature and light

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Simon Heijdens 2007

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publication or reprint.

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