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# Rising Tide of Talent

By Enrico G. Cleva & Sara Viarengo Cleva

**Papillon | Lagoon** Inspiration for this chair comes from the environment in which the designer, David Wang, grew up. In a mountainous island surrounded by the sea in Taiwan, there are almost 400 species of butterflies, and the structure of the seat back recalls a butterfly basking with its wings opened. [www.lagoon.com.tw](http://www.lagoon.com.tw)

**Zigozago | Lagoon** Designed by Baldessari e Baldessari, the Zigozago's backrest looks like two different sections, joined by zigzag stitching, a detail both aesthetic and functional as it becomes the fastening element for the upper section cover, which comes in fabric and colour combinations inspired by the hues of lagoons. The shell's ribbing is inspired by natural geometry such as that found in the veining in leaves. [www.lagoon.com.tw](http://www.lagoon.com.tw)

**Lolla | Oasis Furniture Industries Sdn Bhd.** Designed by Sujaklosophy, the Lolla concept creates a Willy Wonka-style gumbdrop wonderland, where teamwork forms naturally and creativity juices flow endlessly. Lolla is versatile enough to fit into all kind of office settings ranging from breakout areas and public seating to libraries or cafés. [www.oasis.com.my](http://www.oasis.com.my)

*It's not a sea of rattan anymore. MIFF 2017 shows a country and industry that is celebrating the creative spirit of design and uncovering young talent to support and grow Malaysia's thriving furniture sector.*

— Furniture export is one of the most important activities in Malaysia's growing economy. Malaysian manufacturers have always produced for the mass market, exporting furniture with great price points to the world's biggest furniture chains, and with North America as one of their most important markets. Given this international reach, the Malaysia International Furniture Fair (MIFF), organized by global b2b events specialists UBM, is one of the most relevant shows for international buyers as well as companies that exhibit in Kuala Lumpur for the southeast Asian market. ----- Alongside many mass-market products, mainly from Malaysia, but with a broadening international range, the show is growing a sense of local design. Many initiatives are supporting the creation of a national design industry, to sustain a sector with businesses able to compete in the global markets. The show, the government and local furniture industries are strongly investing in the creation of a young generation of Malaysian designers able to leverage the national manufacturing capabilities to create furniture with an international taste but with a local character. ----- •

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**Wall hook | Chang Fu Precision Co.** Seen in the Taiwanese Furniture Manufacturers Association pavilion, the unique styling of these wall hooks, designed by Steven Wang, are inspired by architectural patterns such as arched windows and doors in landmark European structures, and perform double duty as wall decoration and hangers. [www.changfu-tdf.com](http://www.changfu-tdf.com)

**Huli Table | Eonmetal Group Bhd** The Huli Table, by David Goh of 1987 Design, offers a clean working space that includes a movable LED light that follows the table edge. It just needs to be flipped up to turn on. The lighting structure comes in white steel and the sleek 18-layered wood. [www.eonmetal.com](http://www.eonmetal.com)

**Alur chair | Shahrl Faisal** Like the natural flowing system in rivers, branches or veins, these elements hold particular shape and structure. The concept of "nature efficiency" is replicated in the construction of the Alur chair by utilizing the flexible characteristics of rattan which allows for maximal yet resistant structure, resulting in a graceful flow of lines. Designed by Shahrl Faisal, this prototype was made within the Tanggam Intellivo, sponsored by the Malaysian Timber Industry Board to select, promote and nurture designers and furniture products at an international level. [www.shahrlfaisal.com](http://www.shahrlfaisal.com) / [www.tanggam.my](http://www.tanggam.my)

**Lole Hanger | Eonmetal Group Bhd** Kent Goh of 1987 Design wanted to do something simpler, turn conventional steel racks into new design objects. The Lole Hanger is able to double up the hanging space with three different level height hangers. [www.eonmetal.com](http://www.eonmetal.com)

**Pua Kumbu console table** By winning the 2016 Pusa-Ku-Linnas Furniture Design Competition for her console table, Norazmi Binti Rashid was invited to exhibit it at MIF. The long and narrow table carved from solid Acacia wood is inspired by a traditional ceremonial cloth pattern known as pua kumbu made by the Iban people living in Borneo, a pattern meant to evoke peace and serenity.

**Vidmsum table and Rabbit Barstool | Woodot** Woodot commercializes original furniture designs made by Malaysian students, such as the Vidmsum table and Rabbit barstool, both designed by students from Southern University College. The company's idea is to have a new starting point in a country that produces good wood furniture. The Vidmsum, for example, uses the traditional Chinese dim sum dish as a table top, to allow people to display whatever they want in the cavity between the glass and the container. [www.woodot.de](http://www.woodot.de)

**Xera | Artmatrix** The inspiration for this chair concept comes from the southern European sunflower family, *Xeranthemum*; its silvery flower heads with purplish tubular flowers are a symbol of eternity and immortality. Xera is built from individual components and most of the parts are made of polycarbonate and nylon glass-filled material, making the entire chair highly recyclable. [www.artmatrix.com.my](http://www.artmatrix.com.my)