

Designers get their place in the sun

The new 20th-century and contemporary design section introduced at TEFAF in 2009 was such a success that it has been expanded this year and moved to a more prominent position next to the Modern section on the main floor, an indication of the increasingly important place design now holds in the art world.

Of the nine exhibitors featured in the section, eight were present at the 2009 fair. The newcomer, Gallery Fancsaly of Milan, a dealer in 20th-century Italian glass and design, will spotlight a curiosity called "Cut Out Thought," the only sculpture ever created by the Italian architect-designer Gio Ponti, executed in brass by Sabatini in Milan in 1976.

From Paris, Galerie Downtown will present a group of furniture designed by the Swiss architect Pierre Jeanneret for the planned city of Chandigarh, India, a project he worked on with his cousin and collaborator, Le Corbusier, in the 1950s. Among the pieces are the self-describing "Boxes Desk" (1955) and a handsome leather armchair designed for the city's high court of justice. Other pieces by Jeanneret include a display cabinet designed with Charlotte Perriand. The artist Arman weighs in with a sculpture called "Le Mur des Communications" ("Communications Wall," 1970), a chunk of concrete wall embedded with telephone



Jeanneret's leather armchair.

parts. The gallery will also show a sculpture by Takis called "Triple Signal" (1976) and Ron Arad's 1992 "2 R Not" chair.

Also from Paris, the gallery L'Arc en Seine offers the "Cat Butler" by Diego Giacometti, a bronze sculpture of a sinuous cat standing on its hind legs and holding out a tray. Among other items on its stand, L'Arc en Seine will also present a Max Ingrand desk with bronze legs and a travertine top and desk set.

Another Paris gallery, Eric Philippe, will present three massive, angular walnut armchairs and an ottoman (c. 1955) by the American architect Frank Lloyd Wright, as well as the Finnish designer Paavo Tynell's ethereal copper and brass chandelier (c. 1955).

A unique piece will be a grand piano made of leather, chromed steel, lacquered wood and ivory, with a transparent celluloid top, designed

by the Danish architect Poul Henningsen in 1931. It will be shown by Philippe Denys of Brussels, who will also present two hanging spiral lamps by Henningsen.

Wolfgang Bauer of Bel Etage in Vienna, a specialist in Viennese Jugendstil, will show a pair of mother-of-pearl inlaid mahogany armchairs designed by Josef Urban and executed by Sandor Jaray in 1908, along with furniture designed by leading Austrian architect Otto Wagner for a building in Vienna.

Yves Macaux of Brussels, who also specializes in Viennese Jugendstil design, will feature an alpaca and beveled-glass hanging lamp, one of the many furnishings designed by Joseph Hoffman for the Vienna home of Magda Mautner von Markhof.

Galerie Ulrich Fiedler of Berlin will be showing one of the three first copies of the famous chair made for Le Corbusier's Villa Church in Ville-d'Avray, France in 1928, as well as two "Beugel" chairs (1927) by Gerrit Rietveld, with undulating blue-painted tubular frames, and seat and back made of shaped, blue-painted laminated wood.

From New York, Sebastian & Barquet will bring a coffee table, designed and manufactured by Osvaldo Borsani (1952), with a glass top decorated with a painting by the Italian artist Lucio Fontana. Another unusual item on the stand will be the "RK Lounge," a chaise longue designed by Krueck & Sexton and made by Tesko (c. 1987). ■