

Best of Homes

Here's a variety of ideas for the home or garden – whether they're to make better use of living space or for the family living in that space, these should fire up the imagination

Nature meets design – the work of Francesco Maria Messina

fmm

A global pioneer

Francesco Maria Messina (FMM), a talented designer and artist from Pisa, in the heart of Tuscany, is tracing an indelible mark on the world of collectible design. His creations embody the perfect fusion of high-end design and conscientious craftsmanship, with a strong emphasis on sustainability and a deep concern for the environment and climate change.

Armed with a background in classical studies and architecture from Paris, he embarked on a global adventure, refining his skills and gaining diverse design perspectives from the United States to Mauritius. While living there, he designed five lines and played a key role in launching Cypraea, a Mauritian luxury furniture brand he co-created and managed, resulting in immediate success.

Recognised and celebrated for his talent, FMM's works have graced prestigious exhibitions, including ones at Rossana Orlandi's Gallery in Milan and Collect in London. This recognition catapulted him into the spotlight, capturing the attention of the design community and patrons.

In 2020, bolstered by his success, FMM returned to his Tuscan roots, establishing his own design studio. Here, he further explored the nexus of nature, history, design and innovative materials, using his work as a creative medium to spark conversations and raise awareness about pressing global issues.

FMM has exhibited his works at renowned events such as Salone del Mobile in Milan, the last two editions of the Venice Design Biennale, Arte in Nuvola in Rome, Edit Napoli, and the Savannah Unique Design event in the United States. These engagements have solidified his position as a prominent and influential figure in the realm of collectible design.

Between nature and design

Inspired by the beauty of nature and influenced by Tuscany's heritage and centuries-old crafting tradition dating back to Etruscan times, FMM's design philosophy harmonises with the natural world while embracing modernity.

FMM's work centres around exploring genuine craftsmanship heritage through collaborations with



experts and innovative applications of traditional techniques to modern designs, resulting in creations that consistently tell captivating stories.

FMM only produces nine-item, limited-edition series, guaranteeing exclusivity through predominantly handmade work, and delivering genuinely rare, one-of-a-kind designs for collectors to cherish.

FMM's celebrated works include Plinio, a meticulously handcrafted two-meter-long table with a solid lava stone base, volcanic ash and smoked glass, admired for its realism and vivid portrayal of Vesuvius' dramatic eruption. There's also Pyrite, a striking container resembling an oversized pyrite crystal, featuring unconventional openings within its multidimensional cube composition. Another standout is Lunae, a freestanding two-sided mirror supported by a rough-polished marble base and enclosed within a brass-framed bronze mirror.

FMM effortlessly blends natural and architectural inspiration with a commitment to sustainability, resulting in cutting-edge aesthetics and increasingly astonishing creations.

Discover FMM design at fmm.design and on [@fmm_design](https://www.instagram.com/fmm_design)