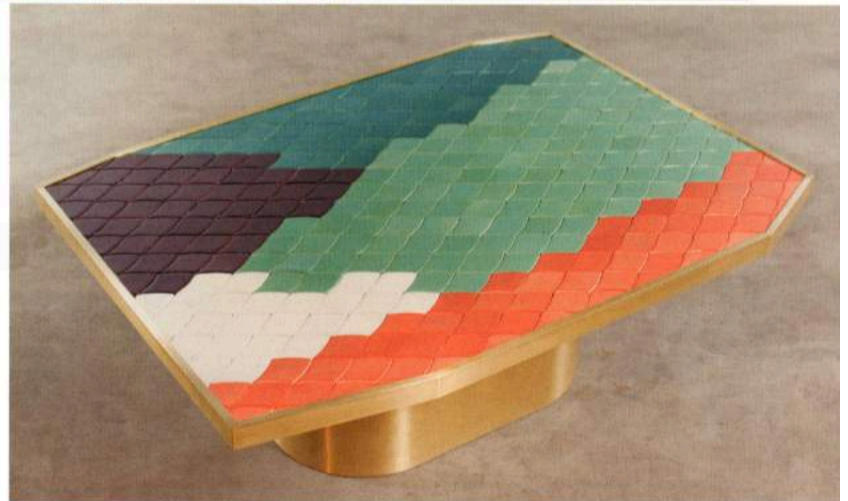






THE ART *of travel*

Lucia van der Post previews the highlights of travelling design showcase Nomad as it prepares to launch its first exhibition in Monte Carlo's beautiful Villa La Vigie



Today, pieces of beautifully crafted, highly innovative design have become as keenly sought after as major artworks. It is, therefore, not surprising that those who sell these rarefied objects should begin to think of equally rarefied ways in which to display them.

Giorgio Pace, who has been described as a "cultural entrepreneur", is an Italian curator who in his time has worked for both the Venice Biennale and the Guggenheim in New York. He and his business partner Nicolas Bellavance-Lecompte, an architect and co-founder of the Carwan Gallery in Beirut, have come up with an intriguing notion of how to introduce their clients to the best of contemporary

Clockwise from top: Villa La Vigie in Monte Carlo, location of the first Nomad exhibition. India Mahdavi ceramic mosaic and brass table, price on request. Pia-Maria Raeder beech, lacquer, brass and cement side tables and sculptures, from €22,000



design. They will find extraordinary buildings in beautiful locations to show exceptional pieces from specialist galleries around the world.

The project is called Nomad because each year it will take place in a different location. They're kicking it off by taking over a historic Grimaldi house in Monaco, the Villa La Vigie (pictured on previous page), a beautiful neoclassical building overlooking the Mediterranean where Karl Lagerfeld lived for some 10 years. Oslo, St Moritz and Los Angeles are mooted as future destinations.

Holding the exhibition at La Vigie means, says Pace, "that the experience will be intimate – each room will be like a cabinet of curiosities. We're even using one of the bathrooms to display the work of one gallery." Pieces exploring the intersection between architecture, design and art will be flown in from Brazil, Russia, Hong Kong, Tokyo, Beirut, Milan, Zurich, Brussels, Copenhagen and Paris. Among this year's internationally recognised designers are India Mahdavi, Nacho Carbonell and Karen Chekerdjian; artists include Jennifer Guidi, Tobias Urban and Wolfgang Gantner; while among the architects are Kersten Geers, David Van Severen and Studio Mumbai.

Etage Projects, a gallery in Copenhagen, will be displaying a glass and steel chair (€2,500, pictured top left) by Fredrik Paulsen, and a collection called Corporate Marble by Soft Baroque, whose extraordinary pieces are made from cracked and battered marble.

The Heritage Gallery in Moscow, founded in 2006 by art critic and collector Kristina Krasnyanskaya, will display historic Russian treasures. There'll be a sofa



Clockwise from far left: Fredrik Paulsen glass and steel chair, €2,500. Studio MVW bronze, marble, stainless-steel, mirror and pink jade JinTang installation, €123,000. Ico Parisi velvet and wood armchair, €27,000 for pair. Valérie Mannaerts steel and iroko wood room divider with cotton and silk kimono, €11,000

(price on request) made by Nikolay Lanceray – a member of the early-20th-century Mir Iskusstva circle – for the Marble Palace in St Petersburg in the 1930s, and a white bisque lamp (price on request) made for the People's Friendship Youth Festival by artists Vladimir Bogatyrev and Galina Stolbova in the 1950s. There are also wooden armchairs (price on request) that belonged to Georgy Zhukov, the Russian general who led the 1945 Victory Parade in Moscow at the end of the second world war.

Maniera in Brussels presents a striking steel and wood room divider (€11,000, pictured below left) hung with a dramatic kimono by Valérie Mannaerts, while one of my favourite galleries, Nilufar in Milan, has a large selection of works from the 1950s and 1960s, including a pair of blue velvet covered armchairs (€27,000, one pictured below) by Ico Parisi and a metal console table (about €60,000) by Xavier Lust, as well as contemporary works by designers such as Lindsey Adelman from the US (brass and blown-glass ceiling light, about €60,000). The Louise Alexander

Gallery has a vast, blue abstract sculpture (€150,000) by Arik Levy, and Carwan Gallery will feature collaborations with avant-garde designers and architects like Bernard Khoury, Sigve Knutson and Vincenzo de Cotiis.

Parisian Galerie BSL will have some 20 works produced by a number of different artists and studios: Nacho Carbonell (a large lighting piece inspired by deep-ocean-dwelling flora and fauna and made of silicone and resin, €58,000); Studio MVW (an installation called JinTang that consists of four pieces – a screen, wall light, console and table, €123,000, pictured above); Ayala Serfaty (a lighting piece called Soma made from two cloud-like clear polymer and glass rod structures, €76,000); Pia-Maria Raeder (three Sea

“The experience will be intimate – each room like a cabinet of curiosities. We're even using a bathroom to display the work of one gallery”

Anemone side tables and two matching sculptures made of tens of thousands of delicate lacquered beech rods, pictured on previous page, from €22,000); and Djim Berger (a lightweight porcelain bench and four stools that double as side tables, from €1,800). To give a sense of the importance of these designers, works by both Ayala Serfaty and Nacho Carbonell can be found in the permanent collections of museums such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the Groninger Museum in the Netherlands and the 21_21 Design Sight museum in Japan.

The exhibition takes place from April 27-30 and tickets can be applied for online. Alongside the exhibition, which will be supported by Monaco's Société des Bains de Mer, there will be a series of talks, dinners and events in both the gardens and terraces of La Vigie and private houses around the city. Since it is happening at the same time as Art Monte Carlo in the Grimaldi Forum, there will be a shuttle service between the Forum and La Vigie. ♦

www.nomadmonaco.com.

DANIELLE (O)OKE GREGOR BRANDELLI, MAUJME PRAMANTO, MANIERA