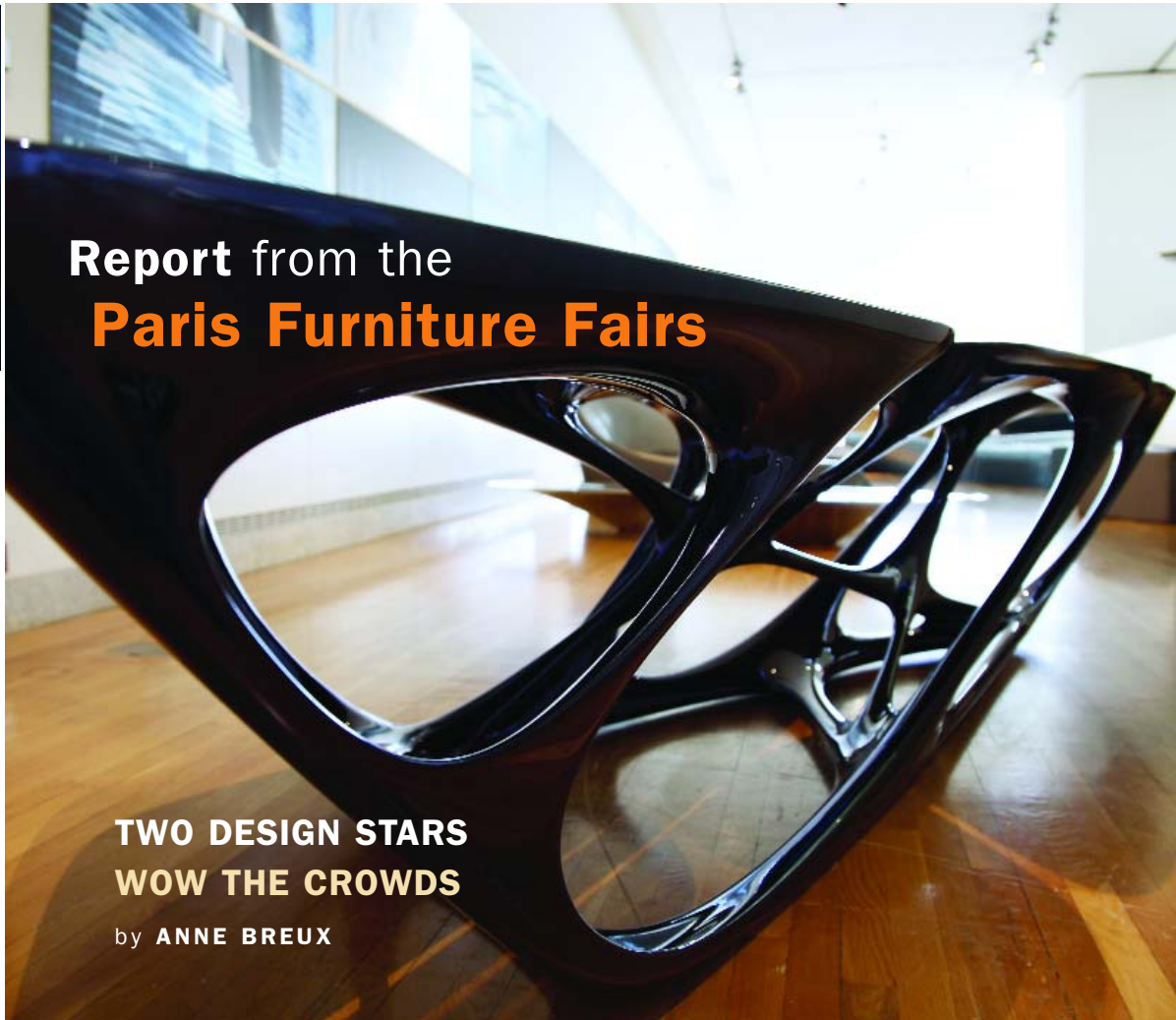




Pritzker Prize-winning architect **Zaha Hadid**, who designs furniture as well as buildings, was named Designer of the Year at the Maison Objet 2008 fair in Paris. Photo by Steve Double



Report from the **Paris Furniture Fairs**

TWO DESIGN STARS WOW THE CROWDS

by ANNE BREUX



Pierre Paulin, Designer of the Year at Meuble Paris 2008, has been designing modern furniture for more than 50 years.

Say 'Adieu' to Louis XVI and Marie-Antoinette and 'Bonjour' to Pierre and Zaha.

Pierre Paulin and Zaha Hadid were the toast of Paris at the two furniture fairs I attended there earlier this year. The Meuble Paris and Maison & Objet fairs are held on the same weekend each year; their combined attendance makes them the largest furniture expo in the world.

This year, Meuble Paris named Paulin Designer of the Year, while the Maison Objet 2008 gave Designer of the Year honors to architect Zaha Hadid, the first woman to win the Pritzker Prize in Architecture in 2004.

I found their furniture designs at the fair to be the most memorable of all. Both designers displayed prototypes and projects showing an extreme desire to break the mold. And both expressed their interest for new materials and new methods of fabrication adapted to our century with plenty of curves and fluid lines, very smooth and definitely sculptural.

Pierre, who is now 81, has been turning out timeless modern pieces since the early 1950s. He has been designing furniture for Artifort for more than 50 years, and his latest designs are still fresh and inspiring.

I met with Pierre in the mid-1970s for the edition of his early

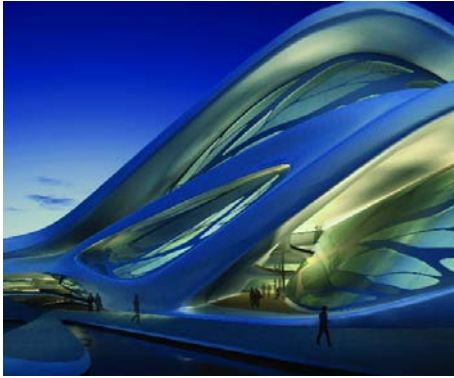
ABOVE:

The Mesa Table by Hadid for Vitra. Photo by Luke Hayes

BELOW:

New lounge chair and ottoman by Paulin for Artifort





LEFT:
Proposed rendering
by Hadid for the Abu
Dhabi Performing
Arts Center

RIGHT:
The Belu Bench that
Hadid created for
art dealer Kenny
Schachter may be
used as seating or
for a table.



LEFT: The Lilas
Installation for
Serpentine Gallery in
London. Hadid's para-
bolic parasols made
of fabric shade the
lawn and garden.
Photo by Luke Hayes

BELOW: Hadid's otherworldly Moon System Sofa and ottoman for B&B Italia may be ordered through Mody & Mody in Houston. The sofa is \$12,460; ottoman, \$1,749.



Paris native Anne Breux, architecte d'interieur ESAM Paris (713.301.0143), practices interior design in Houston and Los Angeles. Noted for her devotion to modernism, she attends furniture and design fairs annually in Paris and Milan.

designs for Artifort, and I met him again this year to discuss his new ventures. He served as interior designer for the Elysee palace, the French presidential residence, during the Pompidou and Mitterrand years.

I did not have a chance to see Hadid up close, but viewing her collection reminded me of the extraordinary retrospective of her architecture at the Guggenheim in New York two years ago. We became dizzy looking at her work.

The most avant-garde designer working today, Hadid defies convention and challenges our concepts of architectural space. She bends lines and warps spaces like no one else. You see this in her fluid, sensual furniture, as well. It's every bit as radical as her architecture. Some of her prototype pieces are selling at auction for \$300,000-plus.

Many of the new designs seen in Paris will be making their way to these retailers in Houston:

Sunset Settings 2610 Sunset Blvd.

Kuhl-Linscomb 2424 W. Alabama

Ligne Roset
5600 Kirby Drive

Mody & Mody 5801 Westheimer

Baccarat
5085 Westheimer



ABOVE: Paulin's Tongue Chair, 1967