



Upper left: Elena Salmistraro, Teodora dressing table for **Lithea**, 2019. Structure in solid wood with stone top; stone is also used to decorate the mirrors, with inserts of lapis lazuli, pink quartz and copper sheet. Above: Lanzavecchia + Wai, Pebble desk/vanity for **Living Divani**, 2018. Available with or without mirror, it has a beveled monoblock top in MDF, lacquered or covered in leather; mirror glass or marble. Left: Cristina Celestino, dressing table from the Happy Room collection designed for **Fendi** for Design Miami 2016 (photo credit: Fendi). Below: Gio Ponti, console designed in 1953 for the furnishings of the Hotel Royal in Naples, with briar surfaces or wood veneer. The same model was then used in 1960 for the hotels in Sorrento and Rome, with colored laminated surfaces.

influenced the formal aspects of exercise equipment, which has migrated from the fitness club into domestic spaces. More recently there has been another phenomenon, that of the transformation of classic furniture types into forms that only visibly reference sporting functions. Collections such as Body Building by Atelier Biagetti (2015) or Game On by Jaime Hayon (2014) bear witness to wide-ranging reflections on vanity in contemporary society, and on the cult of physical fitness. A way of pondering the concept of 'appearance vs. substance' that by now crosses the sexual genders, brought together by an objective of standardized looks. The physical stereotype almost becomes a way of getting beyond gender differences, though whether this

is a conquest remains to be seen. The status symbol today seems to stray far from the needs of wellbeing that change our parameters in substance, in the wake of the lockdown imposed by the pandemic. While the forbidden desire is that of freedom of expression for the body, possibly in open, shared spaces, domestic intimacy too has gained little in terms of conservation of physical form as an end in itself. Perhaps indoor psycho-physical wellness calls for more complex reflections, which contemporary design can now address with utterly novel awareness. ■





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Per
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