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### Invest in innovative fixes

Designers continue to innovate smart solutions as our working habits change. A case in point is the elegant, easily transportable Carry Tap from Tokyo-based furniture brand Itoki: a practical (and funky) set of power sockets that will slot neatly into any modern office. Its designers say that its simple, handle-shaped form was developed to meet the flexible needs of contemporary working set-ups. The cute piece conveniently lifts access to electricity to just above desk height, eliminating the need to search the floor for an untidy tangle of extension cables (and then strain your back trying to plug in your device).

*itoki-global.com*

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### Light the office intelligently

To operate a productive and healthy office, high-quality lighting that is unobtrusive yet warm is crucial. For the darker months, bulbs from UK brand Tala offer the best kind of artificial light due to their smartly engineered LED designs. "The early low-energy bulbs were quite terrible, from light quality to how they looked," says Joshua Ward, co-founder of Tala. The company has an in-house R&D lab, where shapes, materials, luminosity and the capacity to be dimmed are fine-tuned by its engineers. Each bulbous bulb is mouth-blown and finished by hand, and can last for more than a decade. "At the lab we investigate how to get the most out of the electronic components," says Ward. "Efficiency can often mean a compromise on design but ultimately we try to be design-led."

*tala.co.uk*



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### Find a flexible system

Agility, respect for materials and a light touch are some of the qualities to look out for in successful office design. Good workspaces need furniture systems that are functional without overwhelming the spaces that they serve. The Aero collection, designed by Swiss firm Shibuleru for Italian furniture brand Living Divani, has continued to evolve with grace. Items such as the new Aero D desk, which offers ample storage space on a small footprint, and the Aero shelves, which match the desk perfectly, are must-haves for any office. The shelves are the product of thoughtful aerodynamic design; they come in eight sizes and are made from strong aluminium honeycomb sheets.

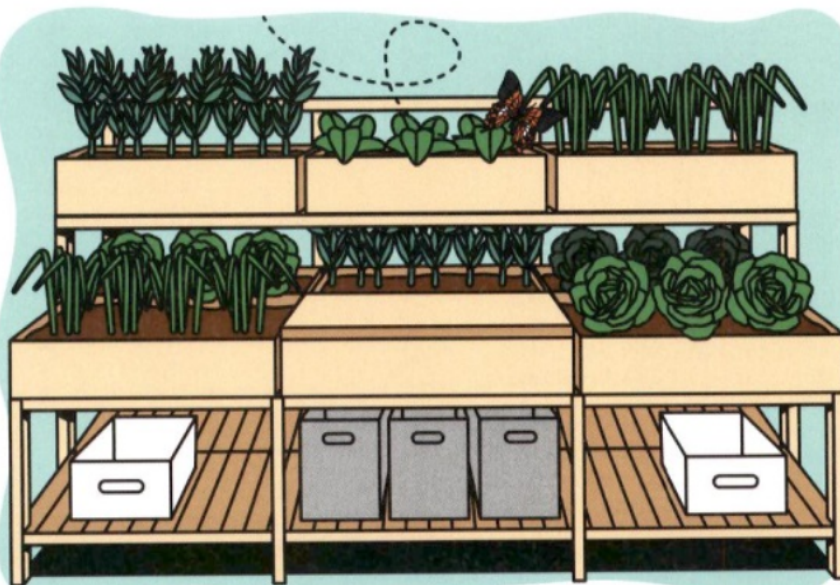
*livingdivani.it*

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### Go green, inside and out

Studies have shown that greenery in the workplace can do wonders for workers' emotional and psychological wellbeing. Plants increase productivity and comfort, while reducing stress. Spanish outdoor furniture firm Kettal's most recent releases at Salone del Mobile offer a range of pieces that promise to foster a happy and healthy working environment. The Hydroponic Garden, developed by an interdisciplinary team of environmentalists, architects and engineers, can add a welcome touch of greenery with its ability to produce a wide range of vegetables indoors. Outdoors, the generously sized modular Base Kitchen, which comes in two types of stoneware and two Iroko wood finishes, provides a handsome barbecue and cooking area for summer parties and alfresco lunches.

*kettal.com*





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# MONOCLE

## 1 Agenda

- Camouflage goes urban
- The electric plane delay
- Bangkok's *klong* contest
- Highways to hell, fixed

## 2 Global views

- Can design save the office?
- Saddle up for career ranch
- Three new media HQs
- Dries Van Noten interview

## 3 Inventory

- Sardinia's sunny capital
- Dijon's zingy food scene
- A smart inn in Abidjan
- Prague's latest hotel arrival

## Rising outposts, fresh starts and big thinkers

PLUS: *How Tunis became Africa's modernist capital*

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UK £7  
USD \$14  
DE/AT €12  
CHF 13

DKK 129.95  
FIN €12  
BENELUX €12  
JPY ¥2,200 (est)  
ESMT €12

AUD \$16.00 (est)  
SGD \$19.90 (est)  
CAD \$19.00 (est)

## New Frontiers

We criss-cross *Ukraine* to meet the *thinkers* and fighters plotting a national renaissance, join Indonesia's president *Joko Widodo* in search of the next Bali, discover why *France* is betting on a health-tech breakthrough and visit Italy's *new coffee region*.  
Join us.