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Bakery Studio, *NOM Nature of Material*, presented at the 2010 Salone del Mobile in Milan and produced by Cappellini in 2012. A detail of the stool made from a folded sheet of aluminum perforated by laser.

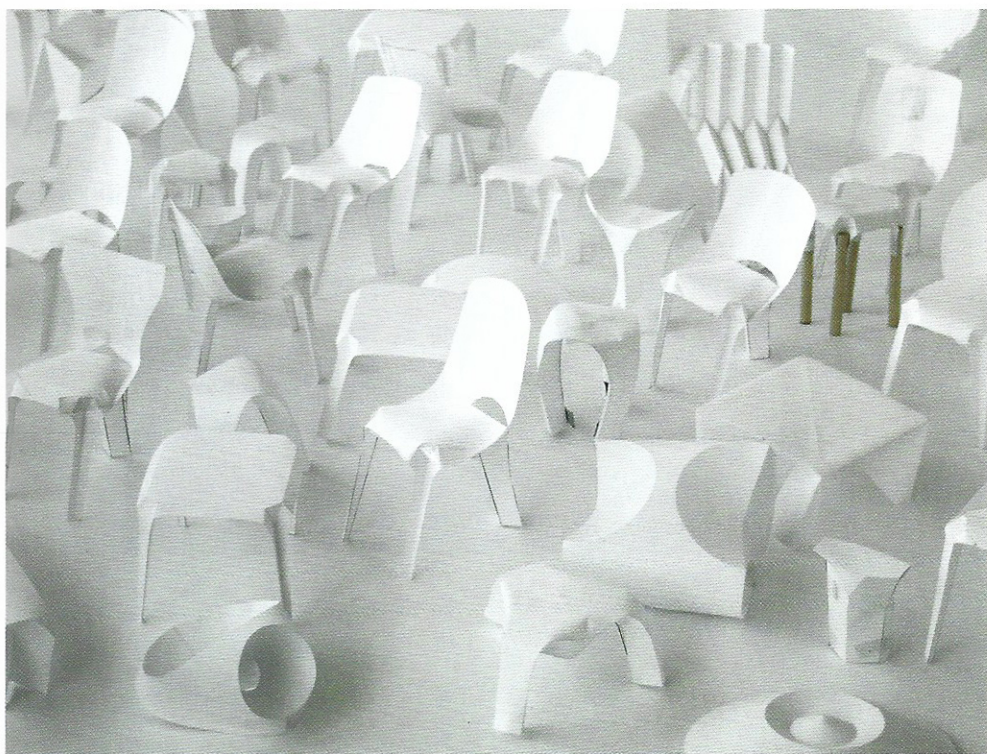
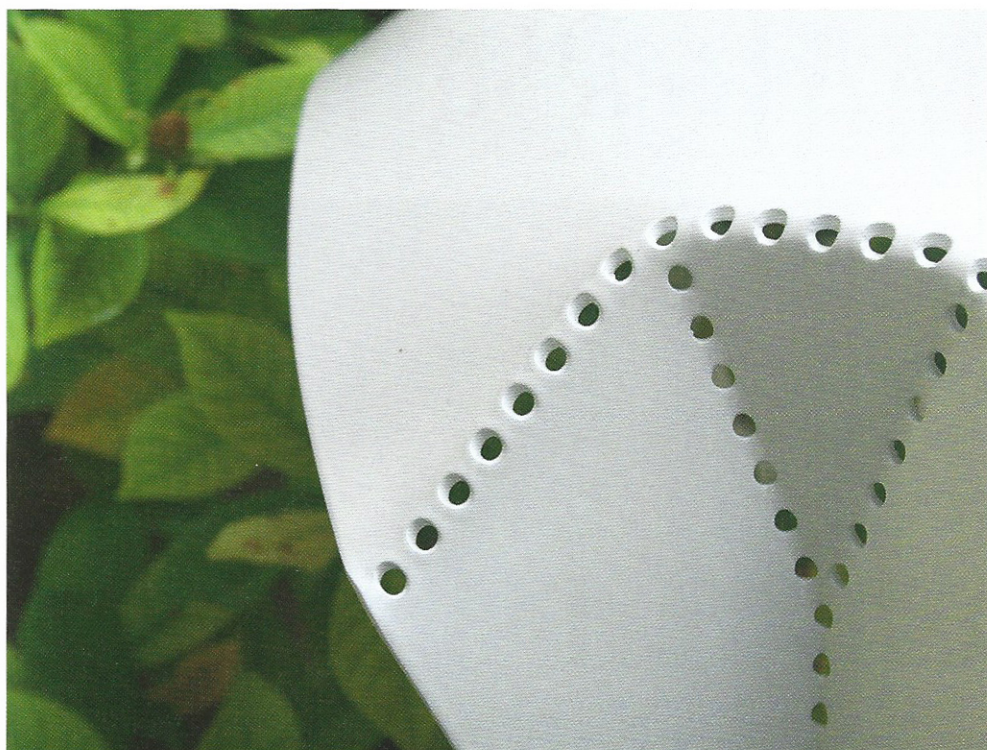
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ll materials, no matter if they are natural or artificial, have specific properties that are necessary to understand in order to know how to use them. New materials, as well

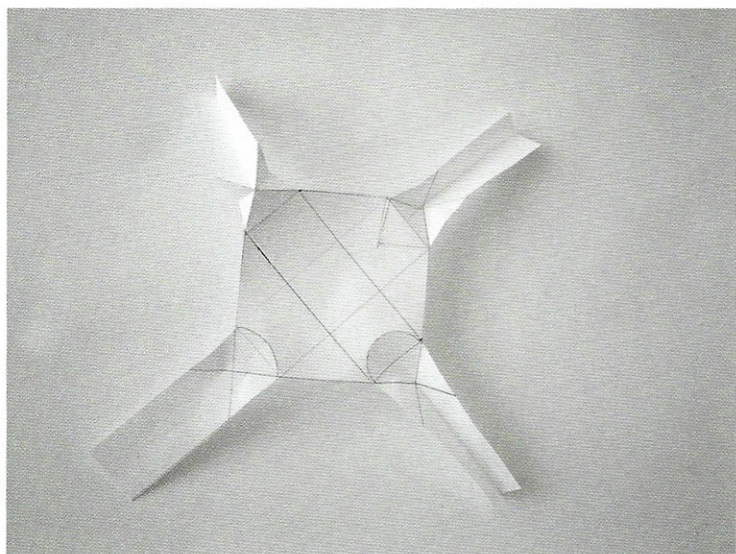
as new building systems, do not guarantee superiority on their own. The correct relationship between them is crucial. Each material is only worth that which we are able to obtain from it.” With these words, Mies van der Rohe expressed his ideas about the need to relate to techniques and tools. The quote is very dear to Giulio Cappellini, who uses it to back up his conviction of the importance of starting not from a product but a material and trying to enhance its properties.

In this experiment several designers who work with Cappellini are to the fore, sharing a common passion in this respect. To quote one of the most representative and recent cases, think of the *NOM (Nature of Material)* series

by the Israeli couple Bakery Studio. Starting with the idea of reproducing the folds of origami in a sheet of aluminum folded and perforated by laser, Ran Amitai and Gilli Kuchik designed a collection of stackable tables that are given their final form in a bending mold. The designers manipulate and work with the material. Ran Amitai guides the form, with a very traditional hands-on approach.

The company's internal research team, at the urging of its art director, also tests materials and unusual finishes and passes on ideas to designers. These ventures often break new ground and kindle new passions, as happened in with upholstered furniture and glued fabric (eliminating the seams) or laminates. Or they put forward bewildering ideas by presenting icons revisited in their design and transformed by the use of different materials. These ideas are always guided by the interplay of contrasts, in the freedom of juxtapositions and interpretations.







Study models of the *NOM* stool, from paper to aluminum sheet, reproducing origami folds.