



## ROSSANA ORLANDI

*The Milan uber-gallerist is known for introducing relatively obscure designers to the world stage. AD caught up with the diminutive Rossana Orlandi—unquestionably a giant of the design world—with Brooklyn-based designer Fernando Mastrangelo.*

The roster of designers who've risen to fame courtesy Rossana Orlandi reads like a who's who of modern design. Amongst the wonderland of designs at her gallery was new work by 38-year-old artist and designer Fernando Mastrangelo.

Mastrangelo worked as an artist until 2014, when, at a design fair in London, his designs caught Orlandi's keen eye. At that point, he had no idea that the petite, bird-like creature who'd shown an interest in his work was considered the grand dame of Italian design. When he found out, he promptly sent her an email, but received in reply only radio silence. It took a full two years for that encounter to fructify into something solid, but for both the gallery and designer, the wait was worth it. Last year, Mastrangelo showcased his first collection at her gallery.

This year, Spazio Rossana Orlandi showcased the designer's Escape collection—comprising desks, coffee tables, credenzas and a bookshelf. In characteristic Mastrangelo fashion, they were created with materials inspired by, and drawn from nature. "Materials should relate to the concept of the work. If I'm referencing natural earth formations or landscapes, why not use a material that is directly from the landscape?" The collection seemed to bring the spirit of distant landscapes into Orlandi's gallery of curiosities—but if her curatorial history is anything to go by, it is she who will take him places.