

Knoll buys Gavina

Matta, Castiglioni, Breuer, Takahama, Scarpa, Magistretti and Tippet designs—made in Gavina's Milan factory—join Knoll's international collection

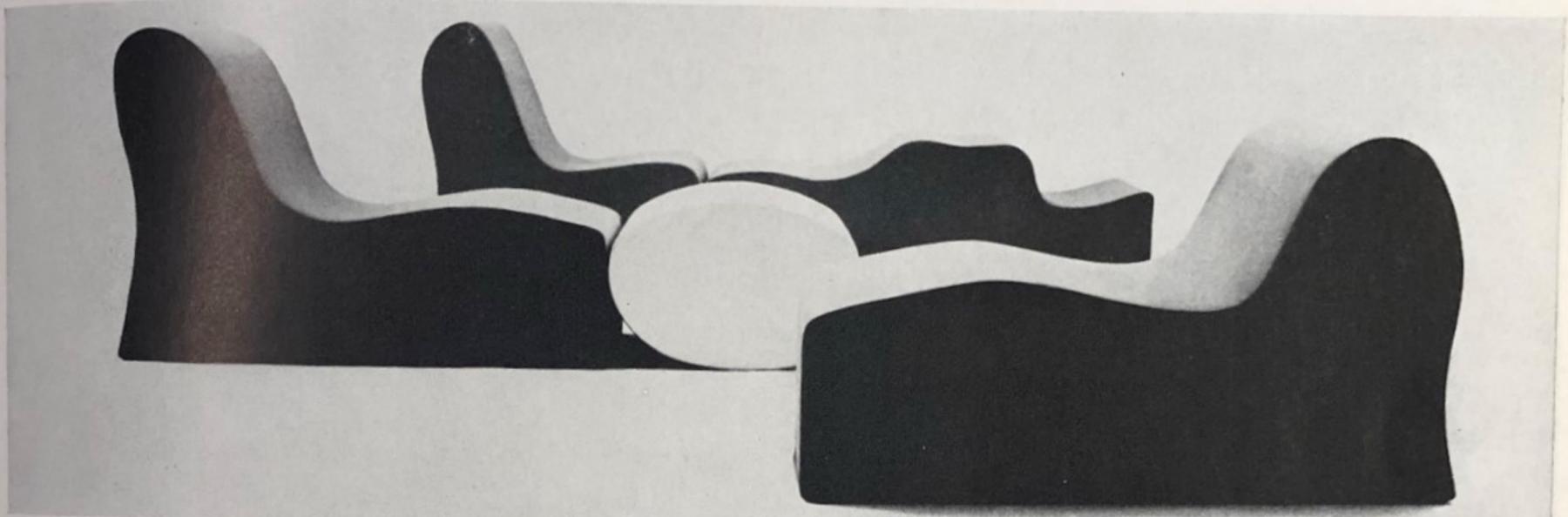


Knoll Associates isn't changing, but it is definitely speeding up. Since its founding in '43 the firm has been identified with a roster of designers whose names are part of the history of the modern movement—names like Bertola, Mies, Noguchi, Saarinen, Schultz, Platner, Albinson, Albini, Nakashima, Petitt, Pear-

son, Pollock, and Jeanneret. But it took Knoll a quarter of a century of piece-by-piece development to build the international collection it had until February 19th. On that day the 30th (upper) floor of Knoll's New York showroom at 320 Park Avenue was transformed into an exciting display designed by Massimo and

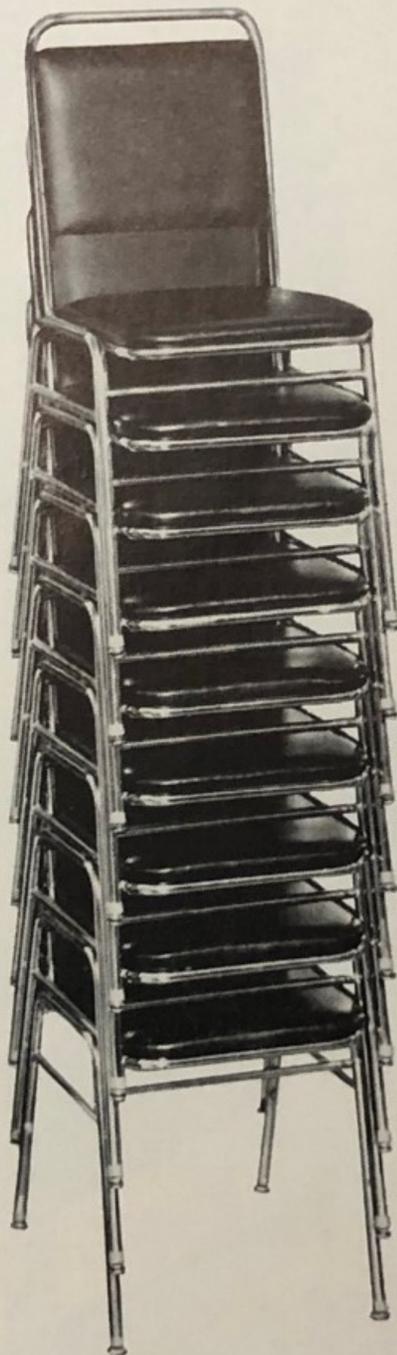
Lella Vignelli of Unimark International to show off furniture by no fewer than seven designers of equally illustrious reputation. The Vignelli team flashed the names in multi-color on-and-off signs in a gauze-framed white space: Marcel Breuer (represented by the "Wassily," "Cesca" and laminated reclining chair and

"Laccio" table); Kazuhide Takahama ("Suzanne," "Raymond," and "Marcel" upholstered, and swivelling "Gea" storage tables); Bruce Tippet ("Renna" swivelling free-branch hat tree); Tobia Scarpa (arm and lounge chairs/sofas, and a great, smooth-cornered wood table that doubles (Continued on page 142)



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EVANS PRODUCTS COMPANY has issued an eight-page 1969 catalog on its "Vintex Vinyl-Plastic Laminates" that will appear in Sweet's new Interior Design File. Vintex, in wood grain finishes, is permanently fused to quality particleboard, hardboard, or plywood for wall panels, cabinets, shelving, dividers and furniture.

Circle 233 On Reader Service Card

MARLITE PANELING has issued a colorful general line product folder to provide capsule information on 55 Marlite colors, woodgrains, and designer patterns. This plastic-finished hardboard that needs no refinishing, can be used in new construction or remodeling. The folder contains pictures and product data on the complete Marlite line, including 14 new textured panels.

Circle 234 On Reader Service Card

MASONITE CORPORATION publishes a 24-page catalog, "Fashionable Royalcote Paneling," that illustrates in color the many new effects possible with Royalcote paneling for walls or shelving. Color-coordinated woodgrained prefinished moldings in wood or metal are also shown.

Circle 235 On Reader Service Card

MODERN LAMINATES, INC. features "the Videne Wall Paneling System" in a 12-page brochure which contains a complete color chart of the 15 woodgrain patterns and 32 solid colors and patterns available in Videne, a process that incorporates laminating a thermo-plastic film surface to a panel of hardboard or other substrate material. This firm also has literature on its three movable wall systems, one surfaced with carpeting.

Circle 236 On Reader Service Card

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in size through an easy pivoting of the folded-over leaf); Sebastian Matta (polyurethane foam "Islands of Comfort" which jigsaw into a big abstract sculpture or any number of free-form *chaise longues*, lounge chairs, and hassocks); Achille and Pier Castiglioni (big square dining table with steel base and glass top, steel and lacquered wood conference and coffee/storage tables).

The Gavina collection reflects the shrewd eye of Dino Gavina, who, for example, spotted Tokyo-trained Takahama during the installation of the Japanese pavilion at the 1957 Triennale. Takahama's furniture includes the simple, superb, combinable rounded back upholstered "Marcel" group (page 119 and in our January presentation of the Atlantic Richfield offices) and the lacquered wood cylinder "Gea" bookcase/tables, one of which swivels. The Knoll coup, in short, is no conglomerate act but a broadening of a superb collection of modern classics. The range has the same ineffable quality, but more variety, youth, and functional adaptability. The Vignelli display at the New York showroom will be illustrated in a future issue, along with Knoll's Charles River Plaza showroom in Boston—recently designed by Italian architect Gae Aulenti.—O.G.

Rx for Environment by E. Todd Wheeler, FAIA

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essary, with the implication that such quality is costly and wasteful. A more important question might be the demonstrable medical benefits of luxury or, conversely, of austerity. Theoretically the doctor should be able to prescribe either luxury or austerity. Practically such environmental therapy is only partially available. Perhaps an austere environment and unpalatable food would in fact shorten the