

# ARCHITECT

## Letter From Design Miami 2018

ARCHITECT contributor Ian Volner's who's who of highlights from the annual design fair include the buzziest exhibits from the main tent, and the most anticipated new buildings finishing up around it.

By Ian Volner



James Harris, courtesy Design Miami



Théophile Blandet's exhibit at Design Miami, presented by Berlin's Functional Art Gallery

Design Miami 2018 was marked by beginnings and endings. It was the last year of the fair under the direction of Rodman Primack, its chief creative officer since 2014. It marked the introduction of Aric Chen, who was named to succeed Primack next year, under the title of curatorial director, only a few days before the fair opened. And it was the first year of a major fixture in the Miami landscape: the new Miami Beach Convention Center, situated immediately next door to the Design Miami tent..

Théophile Blandet's exhibit at Design Miami, presented by Berlin's Functional Art Gallery. Ian Volner Théophile Blandet's exhibit at Design Miami, presented by Berlin's Functional Art Gallery. Not far off, another standout from the big tent were works by Théophile Blandet, presented by Berlin's Functional Art Gallery. Composed of mixed plastics, the simple interior ensemble was a cheeky combination of delicacy and crudity, and it elicited an unlikely empathy. Also of note was Philippe Malouin's collaboration with Calico Wallpaper entitled "The Color and the Shape": using what the designer termed "decoupage applied directly to the wall," Malouin achieved a sprezzatura effect, the seemingly artless ripped-up wall treatments actually the result of careful deliberation.

### About the Author

Ian Volner is a Manhattan-based writer and frequent ARCHITECT contributor whose work has also been published in Harper's, The Wall Street Journal, and The New Republic.

### Selected Press

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