



DESIGNwire

edited by Annie Block

curated on the coast

From top: Mexican architect Antonio O'Connell's Utopia Lounge Chair No. 2 overlooks a Parota-tree trunk bridging the pool at Casa Naila in Puerto Escondido, one of two sites for the second edition of Mexico Design Fair, founded and curated by architect Carlos Torre Hütt. BAAQ's Casa Naila is a four-volume construction of concrete and locally sourced slatted wood. Faces chairs in steel and wicker by Edgar Orlaineta were among the fair's 50 exhibited contemporary Mexican designs.



Many in the A&D community are familiar with Design Week Mexico, the annual program of events and exhibitions throughout Mexico City launched in 2009. But last year, a new platform emerged in a less urban but no less authentic setting: Mexico Design Fair in Puerto Escondido, a surfing mecca on the Pacific Coast of Oaxaca. Presenting furniture and objects from such Latin American-focused galleries as Casa Gutiérrez Nájera, La Invencible, and Marion Friedmann Gallery, MDF took place in Casa Naila, a house by BAAQ, with the mission of “being an accelerator of the discipline from Mexico and to strengthen the position of contemporary design—especially Mexican design—globally through an invitation-only, weekend-long intimate travel experience,” founder, curator, and architect Carlos Torre Hütt explains.

Edition two, which wrapped at the end of May, expanded to a second location, architect Aranza de Ariño's Casa Tiny, which is also where the Rimowa-sponsored MDF Designer of the Year Award was presented to industrial designer José de la O. Both seaside sites, along with the exhibited pieces, centered on low environmental impact—the naturally ventilated houses constructed of native woods and the furnishings composed of vegetable fibers, such as Edgar Orlaineta's wicker Faces chairs, or upcycled materials, like Thierry Jeannot's TEOTL lamp of recycled PET bottles. Additionally, guest collectors were hosted at Federico Rivera Río Arquitectura's Hotel Escondido, crafted of indigenous thatched roofs, Central American hardwood, and local stone. MDF edition three is scheduled for May 19-21, 2023. ➤