

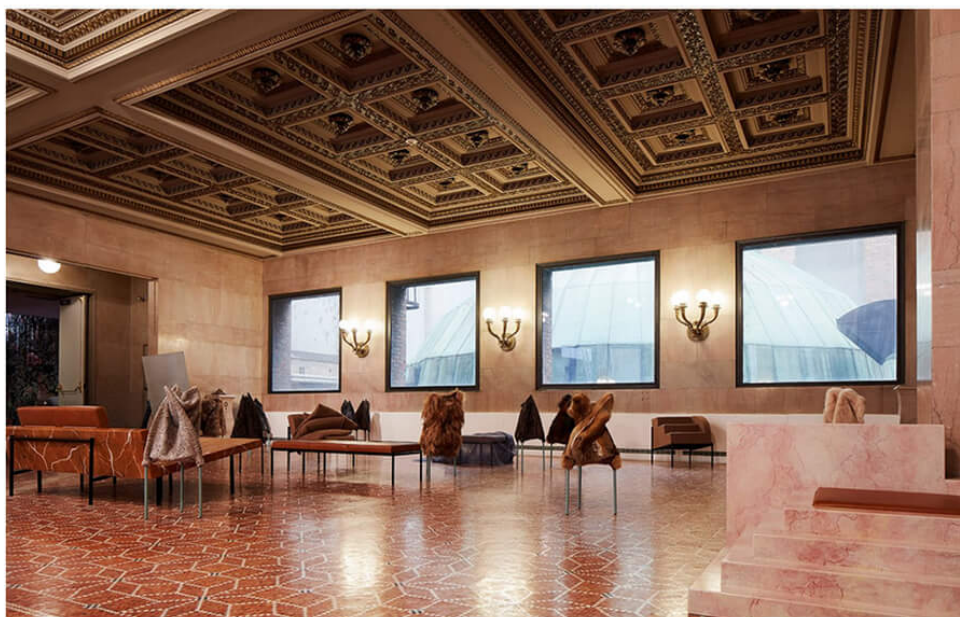
Photograph by Steve Hall of Hall Merrick Photographers

Artek and Bless present fur-covered and marble furniture at Chicago Architecture Biennial



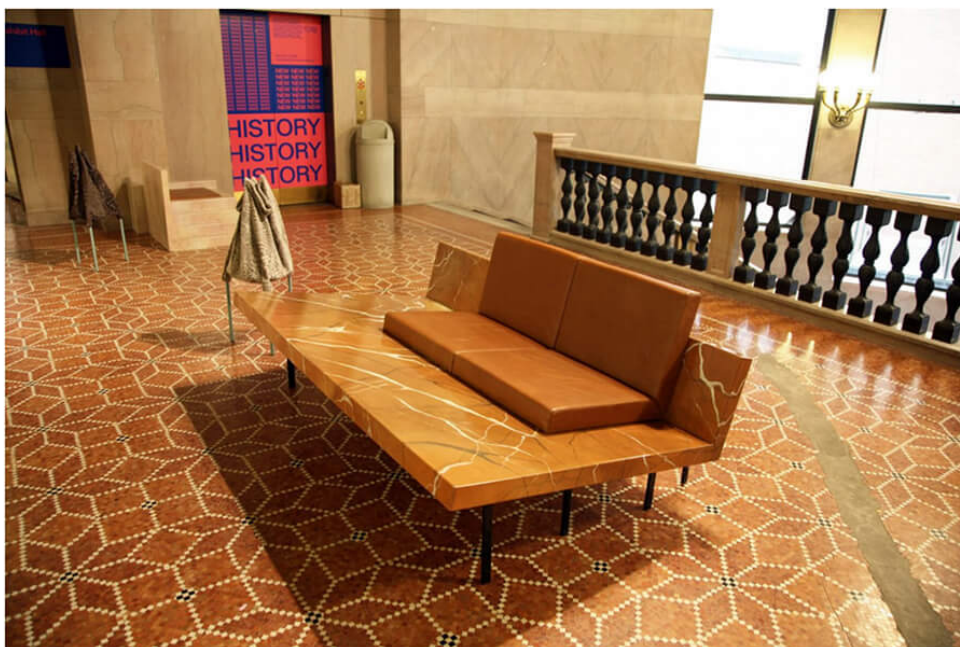
Bridget Cogley | 28 September 2017 | 1 comment

Finnish furniture company [Artek](#) has collaborated with fashion label [Bless](#) to dress up a collection of [seats](#), which form a decadent lounge at this year's [Chicago Architecture Biennial](#).



The team customised Artek's Kiki range, which was originally designed in 1960 by Finnish designer [Ilmari Tapiovaara](#) and features in [Dezeen's London offices](#).

The new collection, called [N°60 Lobby Conquerors](#), updates the metal-framed pieces with materials such as marble, fur and concrete.



A modified Kiki three-seater bench stands in the centre of the lounge, which occupies the landing of a staircase in the biennial's primary venue, the [Chicago Cultural Center](#).



Further single seats referred to as "architurniture units" are scattered throughout the space, which links two further exhibition areas in the venue. These seats feature additions including a piece of red marble that extends a two-person bench, while an armless tan chair has an extra-high back and side made of concrete.



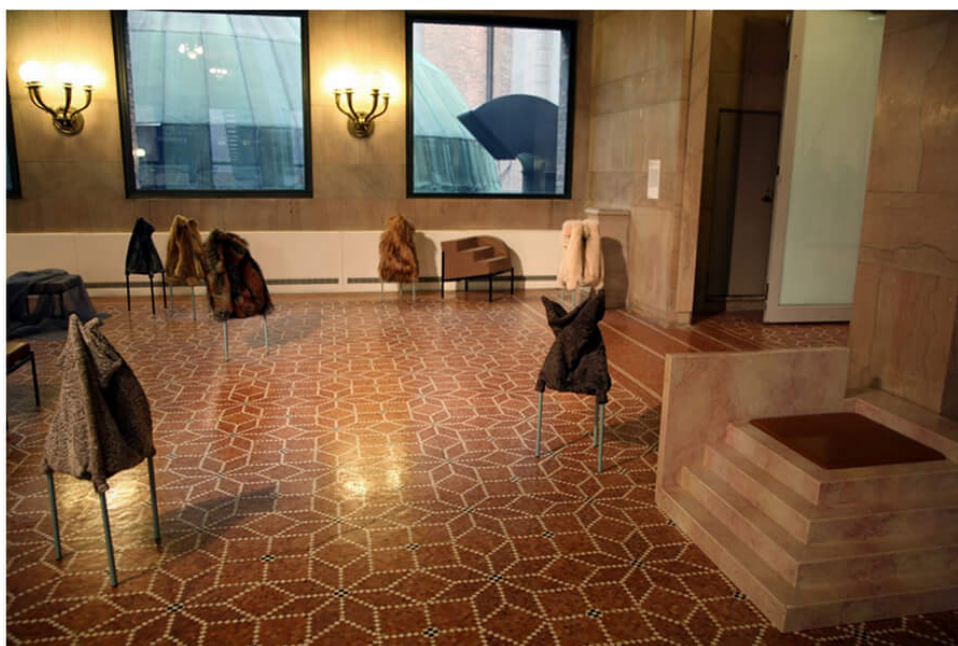
"Through garments and fragmented architectural add-ons, Artek's iconic Kiki Lounge Chairs are transformed into small architecture units," said a statement from Artek and Bless.

[Artek at the Chicago Architecture Biennial](#)

A range of stools also designed by Tapiovaara are "dressed-up in hairy costumes" with fur and dotted throughout the lounge.



The materials were selected to complement the space's decorative burnt-orange floor tiles and ornamental fittings.



Founded in 1935, Artek was led by Alvar and Aino Aalto, Maire Gullichsen and Nils-Gustav Hahl. The company was acquired by Swiss furniture giant Vitra in 2013, and has since relaunched updates of some of its iconic mid-century designs. Bless was set up in 1997 by Desiree Heiss and Ines Kaag, and has stores in Berlin and Paris.



N°60 Lobby Conquerors was commissioned for the [Chicago Architecture Biennial](#) and is on on display until 7 January 2018.