



Paola Lenti's *Move* seating system features movable armrests, different seat depths for added flexibility

PLUSH BUT NOT TOO PLUMP

Whereas a few years back living room furnishings took comfort and cosiness to an extreme, releasing super-sized upholstery pieces with low, sprawling proportions and bulkiness, current designs are taking it down a notch or two. The last few seasons have seen seating collections turning the focus on old-world details such as pleating and capitonné, for a more tailored look. Proportions and scale came down, and while fresh takes on generous seating systems are being presented at the latest home furnishings fairs, a more streamlined and masculine look has been making its ways into the halls of Europe's top shows. Soft, organic forms still remain prominent but a more linear and lightened approach has also been making an appearance.

"The living room is one of the most important areas of the house and the one where we spend more time in with family and friends. It's therefore important to create a relaxed and cosy atmosphere," notes Stefano Zecca of Italian brand Opera Contemporary. "The current trends for the living room highlight the importance of comfort, which can be achieved through soft paddings and fabrics that also enhance the appeal of the room. Soothing warm colours are preferred, as well as metallic details that illuminate the area for an elegant living space. Complements and accessories with a strong personality have a vital importance in these ambiances."

Opera Contemporary, from the maker of Angelo Cappellini, known for its exquisite reproductions of period furnishings, takes an approach to design that's focused on details. Its new generous *Leandro* living room system features ample cushioning but is held in check by strong, clear lines, and is finished on the back with caption details for a buttoned-up effect.

From Paola Lenti comes the new indoor version of the *Welcome* sectional designed by Francesco Rota. Featuring a more relaxed and abundant energy than *Leandro*, the floor-hugging range is composed of elements, with armrests, central and corner units, chaise longue and pouf. The Italian company's modular *Move*, also by Rota, which won the Red Dot Award 2015 and German Design Award 2016, features a more formal attitude, but a still plush vibe. The seating elements can be directly placed on the floor or lifted, with varnished stainless steel bases. *Move* also features a removable armrest that can be positioned on the sofa where desired, and can serve as back support cushions. "*Move* is designed to satisfy [enable] different ways of seating: from the most relaxed to the most formal ones," the designer states. Offered in different seat depths, the elements can be aligned on the front part, creating different recesses in the rear which can be filled with cabinets or bookshelves, creating a fully integrated relaxing island. The system is ample and generous but without the bulkiness seen in prior years.