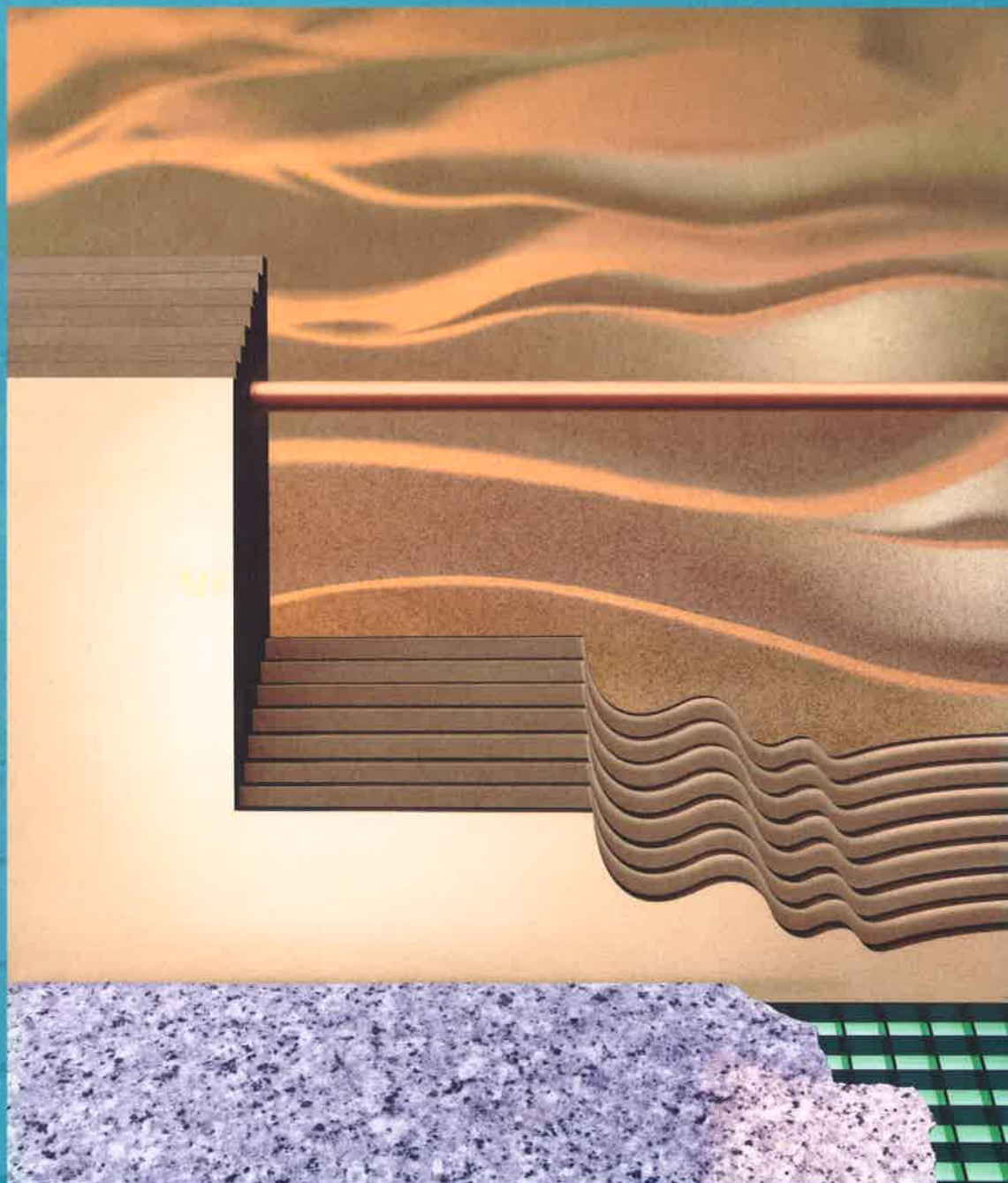


FRAME

THE GREAT INDOORS

N°117 JUL — AUG 2017



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Massimo Gardone, courtesy of De Castelli

(Female) designers melt the mythic chill of METAL

MATERIALS – Controversy greeted Italian metal brand De Castelli's decision to work with seven *female* designers in order to dispel the idea that metal is a masculine material. But leaving aside any issues of discrimination or stereotyping, the Tracing Identity project certainly achieves what the brand set out to do. Flowing lines, curved forms, warm hues and decorative details add softness and subtlety to an otherwise hard brittle material. Sculptural shapes and playful approaches contribute an emphatic emotional edge to the furniture collection. Polished, brushed and oxidized metals combine in Francesca Lanzavecchia's Scribble (pictured above), a group of coffee tables that seem to flow like brushstrokes, while Nika Zupanc's Long Cabinet (right) is a copper 'cabinet of wishes', complete with a golden key for each door and a patchwork of finishes. These are metal objects with a sensuous, sinuous – dare we say sexual? – appeal. Whether that's down to the designers' gender is, of course, another matter entirely. – JS

decastelli.it

