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State of Gras

Now available to order online, The Gathering Hand is the first collection of furniture and objects from the Edinburgh-based architecture practice Gras. This came onto our radar two years ago, when Gras director Gunnar Groves-Raines presented prototypes during London Design Festival. Created in collaboration with four makers, the pieces reflect Gras's ethos of creating 'things – be it buildings or objects – that people have a strong emotional connection to', according to Gunnar. Three smoked oak tables by Irish woodworker Namon Gaston, including a dining table (below), are topped with hand-textured cork by Studio Corkinho. Accessories include pieces in Portland stone from Albion Stone and crazed glassware mouth-blown by Edmond Byrne. Gunnar has been working with the makers to find manufacturers who are able to maintain the quality of the originals while producing the pieces on a larger scale. gras.co



Made for Life

The latest collection from the interiors textile company de Le Cuona, Life is designed to bridge the gap between fashion and furnishings. A variety of high-quality materials – including llama fibre sourced in Argentina, wool from Bulgaria and Tussar silk from India – have been woven to create a collection of 15 chic scarves, throws, blankets and ponchos, plus three cushions. The idea, explains founder Bernie de Le Cuona, is to create a wearable expression of the brand's interiors textiles, which incorporate traditional weaving techniques. Some items, including the 'Handwoven Alpaca Blanket with Fringe' (£830, in khaki and cacao above), are made with the fleece of Peruvian-raised alpacas, which is spun with soft wool and woven by a female craft collective. The 'Fine Knit Linen Scarf' (£260) is knitted in England using European flax. Prices start at £180 for a textured 'Shepherd's Wool Blanket'. delecuona.com



Open shop

In the 105 years since it was founded by Lucien Ercolani, the Buckinghamshire-based company Ercol has become synonymous with material-focused and craft-led furniture design. This month, it is throwing open the doors of its first shop on the King's Road, SW6. Though Ercol still counts Heal's and John Lewis among the stockists of its pieces, this new 6,000-square-metre space will serve as the brand's flagship location. The light-filled, two-storey emporium will showcase designs from Ercol's contemporary collections, including the 'Chairmakers' rocking chair shown left (£949). Also on display will be pieces by L.Ercolani – the brand offshoot that now produces Ercol's iconic archive designs. ercolchelsea.com | lercolani.com