



Mónica Armani



MARGHERÌ

Between Light and Shadow

By **MAIKEL TAPIA**

MONICA ARMANI has designed an outdoor collection

for FLEXFORM that transcends functionality to create sophisticated atmospheres.

A collection in which architecture and nature coexist in harmony, redefining outdoor living as a space for calm, connection and contemporary wellbeing.

IN the work of the Italian architect and designer, there is a constant search for balance that is not expressed as theory, but as a precise and enduring practice. Every project is shaped by a refined sensitivity to proportion, light and the way objects inhabit space. Her collaboration with Flexform follows the same logic: a deep affinity that has made it possible to develop a collection in which nothing feels arbitrary and every element finds its place naturally.

“The name contains the very essence of the collection. I wanted a sound that was soft yet distinctive, capable of evoking the lightness and sophisticated atmosphere of carefully

tended, unique gardens,” she explains. From that evocation emerges a distinctive landscape, where architecture and vegetation do not compete but accompany one another, creating a measured setting in which every element contributes to a sense of harmony. The reference to Belle Époque gardens runs throughout the project as a guiding thread. “I imagined settings crossed by afternoon light, delicate shadows moving across surfaces, the discreet sound of nature and a refined conviviality.” This almost theatrical dimension introduces a way of understanding outdoor space as a place where time slows down and experience acquires a more conscious quality.



The Margheri collection stems from what Monica describes as a “spatial and emotional intuition”, a starting point that is then developed through a rigorous process. Form, materials and function evolve together, without hierarchy, in a continuous dialogue. “Everything revolves around the search for balance between architectural rigour and visual softness,” she notes, summarising one of the defining principles of her design language.

This tension becomes visible in the collection’s most recognisable elements. The backrests, defined by a sequence of juxtaposed arches, introduce rhythm and depth without imposing a dominant presence. “They are not merely supporting structures, but light backdrops that define space and interact with light,” she explains. This apparently simple gesture creates a clear and recognisable identity, capable of transforming the perception of its surroundings.

The apparent simplicity of the pieces is the result of a highly complex technical process. One of the main challenges was achieving formal lightness without compromising the structural solidity required for outdoor use.

“Behind the simplicity lies highly sophisticated work, especially in the metal curves and the woven details,” she says. That complexity is never displayed overtly; instead, it is absorbed into the object, allowing it to appear natural, almost inevitable.

This is where Flexform’s contribution marks the difference. The quality of the hand weaving, the precision of the finishes and the excellence of the upholstered elements reflect a craftsmanship deeply rooted in Italian tradition. “Everything speaks of a design culture based on attention to detail. It is a quiet luxury, never ostentatious,” says Monica, describing a concept of sophistication expressed without excess.

The collaboration between the designer and the company developed naturally. “We share the same quest for balance and the understated elegance that defines the brand,” she notes. This affinity has enabled a fluid design process in which every decision responds to a shared vision: removing the superfluous so that proportion, materials and light define the experience.

Beyond its formal dimension, the collection invites reflection on the way outdoor spaces



“It begins with a spatial and emotional intuition,” explains Monica Armani, describing a process in which form, materials and function evolve together



Lightness, harmony and grace. Three words that encapsulate the character of a collection in which architectural rigour gives way to embracing forms. Each piece is designed to stand the test of time with understated elegance, adapting naturally to different outdoor settings while offering lasting comfort.



“The challenge was to achieve lightness while maintaining a solid structure,” says the Italian architect and designer of a collection in which technique and perception exist in perfect balance

are lived in. Rather than adopting a decorative approach, it conceives the outdoors as a natural extension of the interior. “I do not think of outdoor spaces as something secondary, but as places that are truly lived in,” she adds. Terraces, gardens and hospitality settings become everyday environments. Within them, furniture does not function as an isolated object, but as part of a broader composition shaped by light, textures and the passage of time. The collection encourages this continuous reading of its surroundings, and it is precisely in this ability to integrate that much of its sophistication resides.

This vision is directly connected to an understanding of sustainability rooted in longevity. “I believe in durability as a form of sustainability,” she explains. Designing ob-

jects capable of enduring over time means giving them intrinsic quality and a formal coherence that transcends trends. This is complemented by the selection of materials and processes that allow their components to be separated and recycled at the end of their lifecycle.

Monica Armani’s career helps explain the consistency of this approach. Trained in a context where design rigour is essential, she has developed, together with Luca Dallabetta, a working methodology known as Design in Molecules, combining logic, intuition and experimentation. Every project is conceived as a system in which each element responds to a precise intention.

In this collection, that method translates into a clarity that never needs to assert itself. There are no unnecessary gestures or conces-

sions to the ephemeral, but rather a rigorous construction that allows space to come alive naturally. The relationship between solids and voids, between structure and lightness, generates an atmosphere in which design accompanies rather than invades.

“I like to think that these pieces might accompany a moment of pause, a slow conversation, a meeting between friends, perhaps while the afternoon light changes,” she says. In that image lies the deeper meaning of the project: creating the conditions for time to be experienced differently—more attentively, more consciously present.

The collection does not seek to command centre stage, but to integrate into its surroundings and into everyday life. In it discretion lies its character: a measured presence capable of creating atmospheres where wellbeing is truly felt. Ultimately, the collection suggests a more conscious relationship with outdoor space, where design and experience merge effortlessly. Each piece acts as a silent mediator between the environment and those who inhabit it, encouraging a natural, almost intuitive interaction that evolves with the passing hours and the changing light.