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Design Miami / 2016
For Design Miami / 2016, François Laffanour presents a selection of pieces realized for Chandigarh, in India.

Designed as an architecture of Le Corbusier, the exhibition space will bring together exceptional works by Pierre Jeanneret and Le Corbusier.

After TEFAF and Design Miami / Basel, it is the first time that François Laffanour devotes an entire exhibition to this furniture on this side of the Atlantic, also bringing together by pieces from Charlotte Perriand and Jean Prouvé.
In 1951, Le Corbusier was commissioned by the Indian government to head the Chandigarh project. The brief involved designing a new city the size of a capital, ‘an expression of faith in India’s future’. Pierre Jeanneret would supervise the construction of the Capitol’s major administrative buildings designed by his cousin, and would himself create the rest of the city, with the help of several Indian architects, including S.D. Sharma. Among other works, he put his name to the university campus with his famous library (the Gandhi Bhawan), numerous residential quarters and different administrative buildings.

Pierre Jeanneret was also given the task of designing furniture suited to this project. To prosecute his modern ideas, the architect called upon local craftsmen to invent original furniture adapted to the place. In those early 1950s, Pierre Jeanneret already had a solid career as a furniture designer behind him: in 1928, with Le Corbusier and Charlotte Perriand, he came up with famous and iconoclastic line of modern furniture made of glass, steel and leather (chaise longue, table, rocking (basculant) chair, and the Grand Confort sofa), which have since achieved iconic status; in the late 1930s, with Charlotte Perriand, he also designed a whole range of functional furniture for local authorities, which would be subsequently taken up and developed up until the 1950s within the BCC and BCB (two production companies); and he supplied Knoll in the United States in 1947 with his famous Scissor Chair, whose principle of the base consisting of two wooden Vs we find in certain pieces of furniture at Chandigarh. I was by using such know-how that he developed, in Chandigarh, several complete lines of furniture and fixed installations designed to equip the different public and private buildings: armchairs, tables, benches, seats, desks. Very small and sober lines, solidly constructed on rudimentary principles, which were based on the skills of local craftsmen and regional materials. So the pieces were for most part made with solid teak, either left natural or stained (teak being well known for its resistance to humidity and insects), and hallmarked mainly by their X-, U-, and V-like forms. And the seats were often caned or fitted with laths, when they were not covered with local leather dyed in colours bright and dark alike. This also gave Jeanneret an opportunity to train young Indian assistants in his manufacturing techniques, and they would subsequently assume responsibility for spreading his teaching and instruction in India.
Charles-Edouard Jeanneret dit Le Corbusier (1887-1965), Concrete light, Ca. 1954
H. 35 x W.35 3/4 x D. 23 1/5 in

Special commission for the Cité Radieuse of Marseille, and also for the city of Chandigarh and the Villa Sarabhai of Ahmedabad, 1954.
H. 27 x W. 19 3⁄4 x D. 15 3⁄4 in

Armchair with a teak structure, seat and back in red or black leather and compass-style legs. Special commission for the auditorium buildings of Chandigarh, India.
H.140xW60/2xD.85 in.

Sofa made of teak and upholstered with sheep skin.
Special commission for the High Court of the city of Chandigarh, India.
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LE CORBUSIER (1887-1965)

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Jean Prouvé (1901-1984), Bureau « Présidence », Ca. 1952
H 29 x L 97 x W 57 in.

Desk made of lacquered bent steel sheet frame, supporting a bean shaped wooden top with matching lateral drawers and pencils case above.
H. 7 x L. 74 x P. 31 in.

Black lacquered metal frame with wooden swiveling pad.

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CHARLOTTE PERRIAND (1901-1984)

Charlotte Perriand (1901-1984), Armchair in cowhide. Ca. 1946
Dimensions: 31 9/10 x 26 x 22 in.
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