

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
May 1995

MAJOR PUBLICATION ACCOMPANIES *MUTANT MATERIALS IN CONTEMPORARY DESIGN*

Special edition features hand-crafted resin covers

The Museum of Modern Art is publishing a major catalogue to accompany the exhibition **MUTANT MATERIALS IN CONTEMPORARY DESIGN**, on view at the Museum from May 25 through August 27, 1995. A special edition of the catalogue is available with individually created plastic-resin covers, designed by Gaetano Pesce; hand-molded by craftsmen, each of the multicolored, freeform covers is unique.

Written by Paola Antonelli, Associate Curator, Department of Architecture and Design, and organizer of the exhibition, *Mutant Materials in Contemporary Design* considers the implications for designers and consumers when plastics are made as sharp as stone, ceramics as strong as steel, wood as soft as upholstery, composites as light as feathers, and foam that "remembers" shapes. Tracing the history of the raw and transformed materials explored in the exhibition, Ms. Antonelli concludes that "the ultimate goal of developing a material that can be instantaneously designed, manufactured, and customized for and by the end user poses an interesting paradox, since in the process the role of the designer will be substantially redefined."

Following the introductory essay, the book comprises seven sections, corresponding to those in the exhibition, which examine the technical aspects

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of plastics, ceramics, fibers and composites, rubber and foam, glass, wood, and metal. More than 200 objects are illustrated, reflecting the work of international independent designers and corporate design departments.

Published by The Museum of Modern Art, *Mutant Materials in Contemporary Design* contains 128 pages and 218 illustrations (107 in color). The paperbound edition (\$24.95), distributed in the United States and Canada by Harry N. Abrams, Inc., New York, and the special edition designed by Pesce (\$45.00), are both available through The MoMA Book Store.

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