

DESIGN BOMB

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She lives in Milan and is my favorite designer. And being very Asturian and a bit Basque, she is totally universal. And being an architect, she designs like no one else. She is a bomb. She has worked with Achille Castiglioni, the master, and has designed wonderful pieces with Vico Magistretti. Bruno Munari admires her and Pietro Lissoni sighs for her. And she, like me, is a fan of Albini and Eames.

I am writing this sitting in Patricia's red Flower, at gate B30 of Barajas Terminal 1, about to leave for New York, where my Olnick Spanu house in Garrison is being inaugurated in style, where Nancy Olnick, my client, wants to put the Springfield sofas that Patricia Urquiola has just created this year and which are of a great purity of lines. Although I would have liked to put her Antibodi, which is an atomic chaise longue, or her very recent Tropicalia, armchairs with polyester ropes. Both very provocative, comme il faut, like Patricia herself, who, by the way, is even exhibited at the MOMA.

Patricia Urquiola, more than a bomb, is war. She doesn't stop. She does everything and she does everything well. She has an enviable natural elegance. Sometimes she reminds me physically of Joan Baez in her beauty. I met this Patricia Urquiola, radiant, in her beginnings here in Madrid when she was studying architecture at my school. Today, already triumphant, I imagine her walking around Milan dressed by Agatha Ruiz de la Prada and preparing the props for a film by Pedro Almodovar. Although maybe she, sublime, will tell me that she prefers Issey Miyake and Bill Viola. Me too.