



From top: Soft shapes, generous volumes in a range of eye-catching colours infuse Paola Lenti's So collection with an energetic air; the chubby body of Arflex's *Pecorelle* collection poised on skinny legs adds humour to the mix.



## POPTIMISM

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Optimism, great splashes of colour, exhilarating contrasts and the reduction to essentials are the qualities that characterise the major consumer goods trends of the 2012/2013 season. Interiors have become more colourful and carefree once again and life is introduced via luxurious finishes and textures, elusive patterns patterns, and unexpected forms or combinations.

For example, Cini Boeri's plump *Pecorelle*, or sheep, originally designed for Arflex in the mid-Sixties has been reissued in a larger version. This collection of sofa and armchairs poses a puffy, generous seat atop slender, tubular black legs – think of a fluffy sheep and you'll get the idea. So while the design is straightforward and elementary on the surface, the proportions lend a whimsical tenor to the piece, while carefully placed seams and gentle ruching along the arms and backrest add a layer of complexity to an otherwise humble design.

German furnishings fair Ambiente recently released its predictions for the four major trends its trendspotters expect to guide design this year. "Electric Romance" presents traditional and old handicraft techniques touched by humour and an easy-going style. Under this umbrella, natural and recycled materials are presented in lush summer colours such as grass green, cornflower blue or vermillion.

"Dark Attitude" combines the casual with glamour to create a look that is nonchalant and fitting for everyday use, yet self-confident with a daring touch of extravagance where sculptural forms and low-contrast shades like navy-blue, chestnut, smoke-grey or graphite black will be pronounced. In contrast, "Light Innocence" carries a more subtle, softer and purist energy, characterised by an almost ethereal ambience in powdery pastel shades, emphasising gentle and restrained organic forms.