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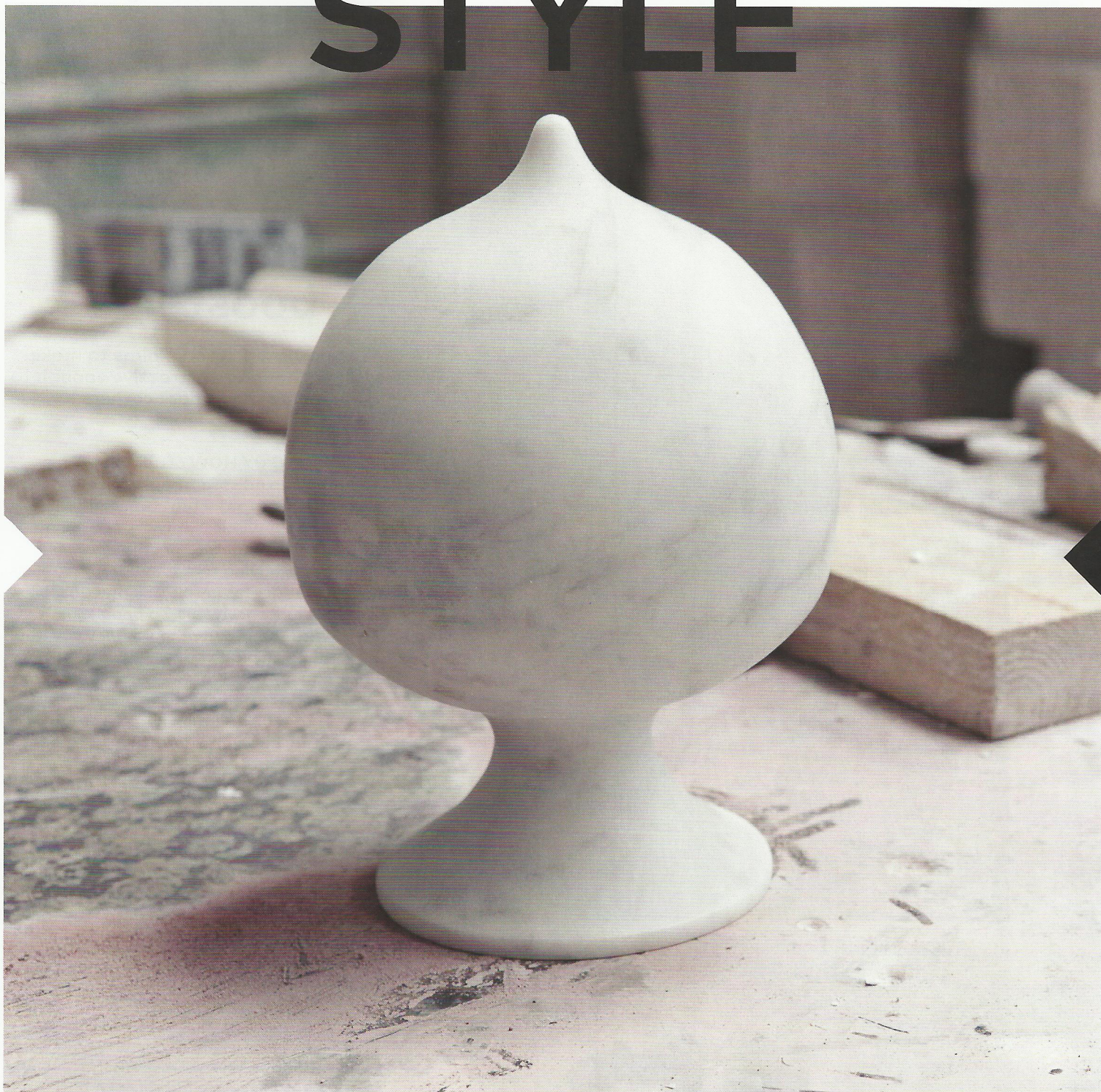
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LIFE STYLE



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♦ **STORIES OF ITALY** (page 30) gives renewed vigour to traditional marble and glasswork, while we visit Avanto Architects' **LÖYLY SAUNA** (page 38), which is livening up a former ferry port in Helsinki with its mix of sustainable design and public amenities



Stories of Italy

Fashion designers Matilde Antonacci and Dario Buratto take on two of Italy's most established traditions with their first product collection, writes Vishanka Gandhi

ABOVE A recently completed Bramante Bianco Carrara marble tray

BELOW LEFT A Pumo Marmo Carrara sculpture, also available in glass



FOLLOWING A DECADE in the fast-paced world of fashion, design duo Matilde Antonacci and Dario Buratto have transitioned from a scene heavy on transient styles to delving into timeless symbols of ancient Italian history and archaeology.

Having both worked abroad, the designers reunited in Milan in 2015 to share their passion for Italian artisanal tradition and create Stories of Italy. 'To realise our vision, we chose two iconic Italian traditions, Murano blown glass and Carrara marble, and then the foundations of the collection were ready,' explains Antonacci.

To give renewed vigour to objects that have been rendered mundane by omnipresence, Antonacci and Buratto explored the islands of Murano and Carrara with a 'bagful of sketches', seeking collaborations with artisans,

who they felt were the keepers of Italy's craftsmanship today.

An antithesis to fast design, their work is aimed at 'young collectors around the world who appreciate the products' uniqueness', according to Buratto. Each product is an exploration in material, technique and skill. For example, a tabletop Carrara marble sculpture has a bulbous centre with a softened tip at the top, reminiscent of the action of clay being moulded by a potter.

Combining elegance and meaning with function, the collection includes handcrafted trays and dessert plates, all of them exploring fresh forms and shades. Stories of Italy brings the users to the forefront – as the studio puts it: 'In a certain way, it takes us back to our basics.' ♦

storiesofitaly.com