



**'WE ARE FIRMLY
AN IRISH
BRAND AND
EVERYTHING IS
MADE HERE'**

Clockwise from top left 'Hemlock' console, £5,500 and 'Pop' chair, £3,475; Ciaran McGuigan, Orior's creative director; 'Atlanta' sofa, from £7,750; 'Livia' ottoman, £2,100; 'Hex' screen, £4,024 per panel; 'Easca' coffee table, £22,075, all Orior (oriorfurniture.com)

INSIDE STORY

ORIOR

The family-owned furniture brand shaking up preconceptions of Irish design

'I vividly remember going through the design archive and flicking past the "Atlanta" sofa,' recalls Ciaran McGuigan, creative director of Irish furniture brand Orior, which was founded by his parents Brian and Rose, in 1979. 'It was designed by my dad; one of the team suggested putting it in electric blue velvet, someone else said we should add fringing. Now it's one of our bestsellers.' Such bold hues and rich fabrics are typical of McGuigan, who has been on a mission to re-energise the family business since he officially joined nine years ago.

Named after the road in Newry, Northern Ireland, where his father grew up, Orior came about after his parents spent time living in Copenhagen. 'Their minds were blown by the shapes and form of Danish design, but we are firmly an Irish brand and everything is made here,' says McGuigan, who, with his sister Katie Ann (a fashion designer) grew up around the furniture makers on the factory floor. 'From afar, Irish design can seem a little too crafty so we are pushing materiality and colour in a contemporary way while tapping into heritage skills.' One of the first decisions he made after coming onboard was to open a studio and showroom in New York. He also took on hospitality contract clients (such as London members' club Annabel's) and reverted back to the company's roots – designing and making standalone heirloom furniture.

As well as putting a fresh spin on archive classics, recent collections have focused on experimenting with techniques and materials. 'Last year, we ended up pairing recycled crystal off-cuts with green Connemara marble for the "Easca" coffee table,' he continues, emphasising that each product (some still designed by his father) is a collaboration with the makers. New pieces this year are equally innovative. They include an oak and marble 'Wavy Credenza' inspired by 1950s cars and the 'Reo' side table, with a crystal top that seems to bubble underneath and a sculptural marble base. 'Everything we launch is the result of good people, good conversation and just wanting to put banging stuff out there,' he concludes. oriorfurniture.com

