

driade

Philippe Starck: MONSEIGNEUR

Philippe Starck's "*recherche du temps perdu*" (*d'un certain temps perdu*) has for some time led him to rewrite the history of man and form using irony as his main design tool. Having celebrated a number of queens and princesses in light but iconic chairs, today with the MONSEIGNEUR collection Starck pays homage to a male entity: a king, a cardinal, a politician? In any case French. The result is "male design", pointed and aggressive but restrained, made of precious woods such as mahogany, dry metals such as polished steel, and especially coverings in button-backed leather. As well as being a sign of skilled craftsmanship, this button-back upholstery has always been the ambassador of a taste that reaches us from gentlemen's clubs, via Mies. MONSEIGNEUR – an asymmetrical sofa, a pouf, an armchair but above all a chair that, with its "ars combinatoria", steps forward as the indisputable emblem of the collection.

For this reason it seems important to make another observation that describes a "deliberate summersault", something that Starck alone could do: come back to oneself. From a critical point of view, MONSEIGNEUR is a self-citation: in 2008 Starck "cites" a very young Starck from the early '80s, by chance the Starck who began his *flamboyante* career decorating the Eliseo. *Salut Monseigneur!*