

style home mini trend

Nothing to hide

Furniture and homewares with see-through weaves and gauzy mesh are this year's show-offs, writes **Susan Redman**.

It seems as though furniture and homeware designers are forever looking for ways to create texture and interest while still coming up with the natural and monotone colourways we love so dearly. The latest designs hitting our shores have surfaces full of holes and are clearly part of the "skeletal" design movement.

These pieces, however, are taking the idea a step further by exploring more-challenging media and construction methods, including moulded plastics, intersecting wire and knotted polyethylene. The resulting fishnet and Swiss-cheese forms may look light but their transparent chequered frames are strong enough to sit in and often tough enough to be left outdoors.

Many of these pieces are also made by hand, such as this wire stool from Globe West and lamp shades from Equator Homewares. Others are the result of clever engineering, such as the Rumba mesh chair, which is simply woven rattan on a metal frame, or the more complex plastic nylon Nett chair, which is reinforced with fibreglass and mounted on a steel base. Kettal and Citta produce beautiful collections and have extended quality craftsmanship to their summer ranges.

Homewares in fine metal wire or mesh look pretty and decorative, especially when there is a light-handed approach to the design. Domayne's grey lantern and SunnyLife's fine-mesh bowls are both good examples of this. Display them prominently.
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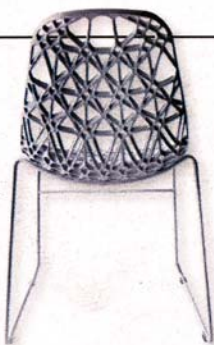
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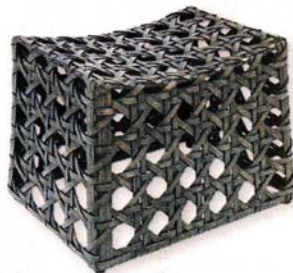
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1. Cali ball lampshade, **\$165** large, Equator, 9571 5000, equatorhomewares.com.
2. Bordeaux oval lantern, **\$16.95**, Domayne, 1800 366 296, domayne.com.au.
3. Rumba chair **\$725**, Globe West, 1800 722 366, globewest.com.au.
4. Nett chair by Crassevig, **\$420**, FY/ 8399 1644, fy2k.com.au.
5. Mesh bowls; **\$19.9** (small) and **\$24.95** (large), SunnyLife from Dav Jones, (03) 9421 6325, sunnylife.com.au.
6. Rattan Eyelet ottoman, **\$355.50**, Citta Design, 1800 256 723, cittadesign.com.
7. Gilded Expression Cocoon stool, **\$1975**, Globe West, 1800 722 366, globewest.com.au.
8. Maia chair by Kettal, **\$1295**, The Plantation Group, 9700 7715, plantation.net.au.