

## DAFT about DRAFT presents **LAST SAMPLE** by Taiju Yamashita at Milano Design Week 2026

*“A chair is a small presence that quietly creates a place for us. Living with my miniature dachshund JACO, I began to wonder how a chair might appear from her perspective. That curiosity became the starting point for this installation.”*

— Taiju Yamashita

To mark the 2026 edition of Milano Design Week, Tokyo-based design brand **DAFT about DRAFT** presents **LAST SAMPLE**, a site-specific installation staged at the historic Teatro Gerolamo, in the heart of Milan. The project introduces the **No.15 chair designed by architect and designer Taiju Yamashita**, founder of the architecture and design practice **DRAFT**.

Among Taiju Yamashita's most notable projects are the design of **Yokohama Timber Wharf**, **Mikan Shimokita** - the redevelopment of the area beneath Shimokitazawa Station in Tokyo and the renovation of **Villa ASO in Daikanyama**. His work has been recognized with awards including the **Best of Year Awards (2018)**, the **SBID International Design Awards Asia (2023)**, and the **Nikkei New Office Award**, which included the Minister of Economy, **Trade and Industry Award (2023)**.

Open to the public from 20th to 26th April 2026, the installation marks the brand's fourth participation in Milano Design Week and represents a new chapter in its exploration of **furniture as an extension of architectural thinking**.

Founded in Tokyo in 2022, DAFT about DRAFT is a furniture brand born from the architectural practice DRAFT. The brand translates spatial ideas developed through architecture and urban design into furniture and objects for everyday life. With the belief that **furniture can be approached like clothing**—chosen intuitively and lived with daily—it advocates a freer, more personal way of inhabiting space.

Harmony and freedom guide the brand's approach. Each piece is designed to fit naturally into different spaces without dominating them, adapting to everyday use. Rather than standalone objects, the furniture is developed in relation to the body, its use, and the surrounding space, with careful attention to proportion, structure, and comfort.

At the centre of this year's presentation is **the No.15 chair, a design that embodies DAFT about DRAFT's architectural approach**. Developed through a process that balances structural clarity with comfort, the chair is conceived as an essential object that integrates naturally into everyday environments, thus becoming a protagonist of daily life. Rather than being treated as a purely functional element, it becomes a quiet protagonist of daily life.

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The installation at Teatro Gerolamo transforms the historic theatre into an experiential environment that invites visitors to **reconsider their perspective on furniture and space**. The concept originates from a simple, personal moment in the designer's life: observing a chair through the eyes of his miniature dachshund, JACO. This shift in perspective becomes the starting point for a spatial narrative that explores the relationship between body, object, and environment.

Conceived as an experiential path rather than a static display, the exhibition encourages visitors to engage with the space, observe details, and reflect on how a single object evolves over time. The concept of the "last sample" represents the moment in which a design is tested, refined, and ultimately resolved.

Set within one of Milan's most intimate historic theatres, the project creates a dialogue between contemporary design and the cultural memory embedded in the space. Through this installation, DAFT about DRAFT continues its exploration of how furniture can connect architecture, objects, and human experience.

The exhibition traces the process through which a single chair comes into being, **revealing stages of experimentation, refinement, and validation that lead to the "last sample"—the final step before a design reaches completion**. Visitors move through a sequence of displays that unfold this journey, including research materials, sketches, prototypes, and final iterations.

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#### **ABOUT DAFT about DRAFT**

DAFT about DRAFT is a Tokyo-based furniture brand founded in 2022 by architect and designer Taiju Yamashita. Emerging from the architectural practice DRAFT, the brand translates spatial ideas developed in architecture and urban design into furniture and objects for everyday life. With the philosophy that furniture should be chosen as naturally as clothing, DAFT about DRAFT promotes a freer and more personal relationship with the objects that shape our daily environments.

#### **ABOUT TAIJU YAMASHITA**

Architect and designer Taiju Yamashita is the founder and representative of DRAFT and the creative director of DAFT about DRAFT. Since establishing DRAFT in 2008, he has developed a multidisciplinary practice spanning architecture, interiors, urban environments, and furniture design. Leading a team of over one hundred designers, the studio has realised numerous projects that redefine the relationship between people and space.

#### **DAFT about DRAFT - LAST SAMPLE**

**Teatro Gerolamo, Piazza Cesare Beccaria 8, 20122 Milano**  
**20-26 April 2026, 10am-7pm**

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