



SHIELD is the theme of the new Spazio Ricerca

Protection, shelter, stability, safety and wellbeing are the buzzwords for next season.

In a world that is constantly playing attack, one of our priority considerations, given all the uncertainties and unpredictable events, is how to protect ourselves. The new Pitti Filati Spazio Ricerca, curated by Angelo Figus with **Nicola Miller** and **Carrie Hollands**, is aptly called **SHIELD**. Shielding oneself is a much planned as well as an instinctive gesture, a basic reflex generated in reaction to something unexpected from which we want to protect ourselves. The winter season, inherently introspective, provokes new thoughts and ideas that take shelter within our own shell, at a controlled distance from the external chaos. A reflection rather than a message of closure, moving towards a more intimate beauty.

At the entrance to Pitti Filati, on the Ground Floor of the Main Pavilion, the Color Room project will provide advance news about the themes and colors of the Spazio Ricerca in an installation curated by **Alessandro Moradei**.

The four themes are inspired by just as many ways of interpreting the concept of shelter, and an equal number of good luck symbols for the coming season: the egg, the shell, the beetle, and the tree.

EGGCENTRIC

The first theme, evokes the quest for harmony and perfection taking its inspiration from the egg. Symbolically, the egg represents rebirth, the ceaseless renewal of emotions, and of the new. It resembles a lifeless stone, but within its hard yet fragile shell it contains the fluid chaos of existence.

SHELLTER

The second theme, evokes the quest for beauty and protection inspired by seashells. A symbol of prosperity and rebirth, when associated with the sea the shell symbolized the source of fertility. Everything comes from the sea and the shell takes us back to the concept of the womb and the birth of humanity. It is a symbol of love and birth as well as abundance, luck and protection from evil.

BUGNIFICENT

The third theme, inspired by Coleopterans, evokes the quest for transformation and regeneration. With about 350,000 described species, in 24 superfamilies, and 235 families, Coleoptera is the largest of all orders of living organisms, including plants, on earth.

WOODNESS

The fourth theme, inspired by trees, evokes the quest for shelter and wellness.

The tree has been the symbol of life throughout history and in all cultures. It represents the power of adaptation and rebirth because it renews itself endlessly, taking nourishment from the sacred fountain of the earth.

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