



From 19 June 2025 to 28 September 2025. Disseny Hub Barcelona (DHub)

## **‘Miguel Milá. (Pre)industrial Designer’, a major retrospective that showcases a key figure in industrial design**

- The exhibition, curated by Gonzalo Milá and Claudia Oliva, offers a unique survey through more than 200 pieces and documents that connect the personal life story, social context and works of Miguel Milá, a pioneer in the discipline in Spain and a Barcelona design icon.
- For the first time, the exhibition will show a substantial part of the Library and Archive of Design’s Miguel Milá Collection, which contains more than 5,000 documents donated to the institution by the designer’s family. Objects that are part of the Museu del Disseny-DHub’s Product Design Collection will also be on display.
- The exhibition highlights Milá's designs for homes and urban spaces as a creator of timeless pieces that are now considered design classics, like the TMC, TMM and Cesta lamps.
- The exhibition, organised by DHub, La Fábrica and the Madrid Design Festival, will be open from 19 June to 28 September in the Barcelona museum’s Espai A.

# Miguel Milá

**[PRE] INDUSTRIAL  
DESIGNER**

**EXHIBITION  
19.06 — 28.09**



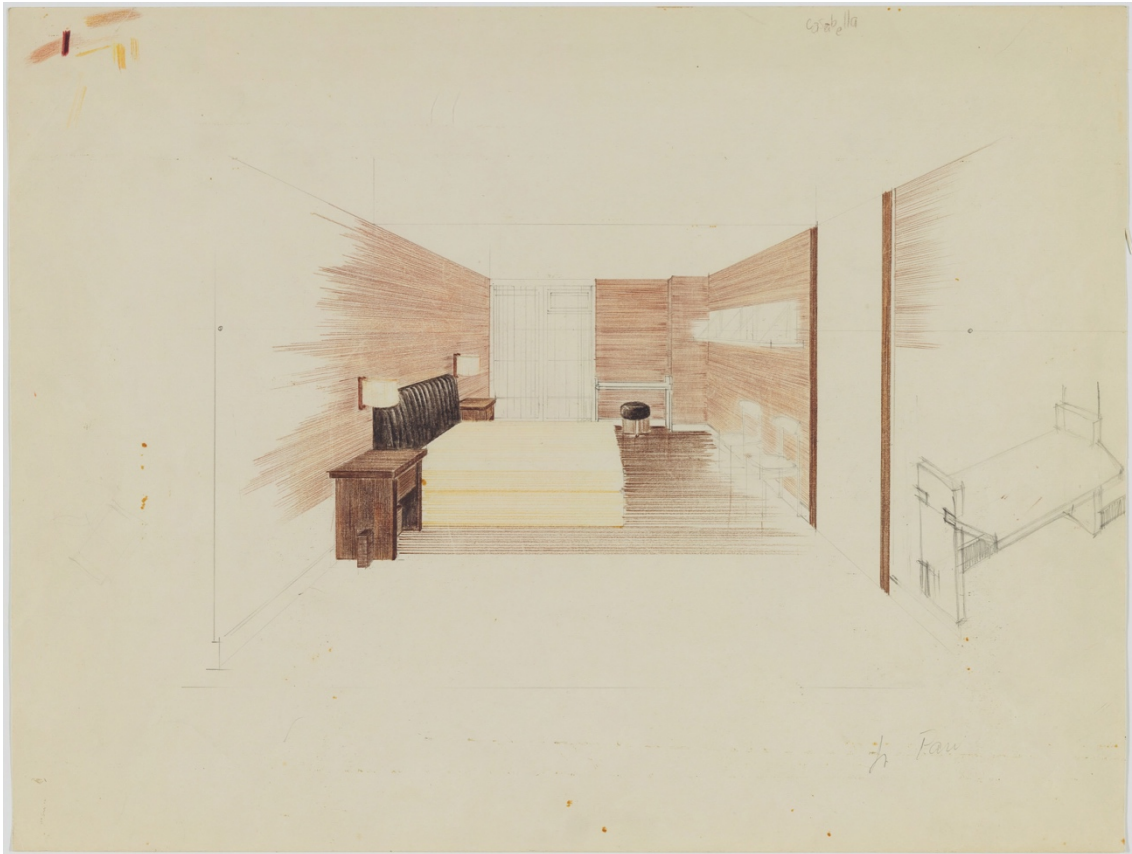
Download the dossier [here](#)  
Download images [here](#)

From 19 June to 28 September 2025, visitors to the Disseny Hub Barcelona (DHub) will be able to see ***Miguel Milá. (Pre)industrial Designer***, the largest retrospective to date on this pioneer and harbinger of industrial design in Catalonia and Spain, who won some of the most important national and international design awards thanks to his functional, streamlined, timeless, elegant style. Curated by **Gonzalo Milá** and **Claudia Oliva**, the exhibition offers visitors a unique survey of Milá's career, which **links his personal life with his work**, both of which were closely connected. The outcome is a **humanistic portrait** of a man regarded as an icon of Barcelona design.



Selection of pieces by Miguel Milá. © Poldo Pomés

***Miguel Milá. (Pre)industrial Designer***, co-organised by DHub, La Fábrica and the Madrid Design Festival, brings together more than **150 pieces**, including both recent designs and prototypes. In addition to the objects designed by Milá, this exhibition also adds a plethora of documentation which complements and contextualises the works displayed. More than **270 documents**, including blueprints, original drawings and photos, magazines and sale catalogues, text documents and scale models help, to **flesh out the portrait of the person** and his family and social milieu and the way they are reflected in his work. **They also provide information on the objects designed by Milá and their life cycle**, not only their creation process but also the way they were manufactured, sold and projected to the public.



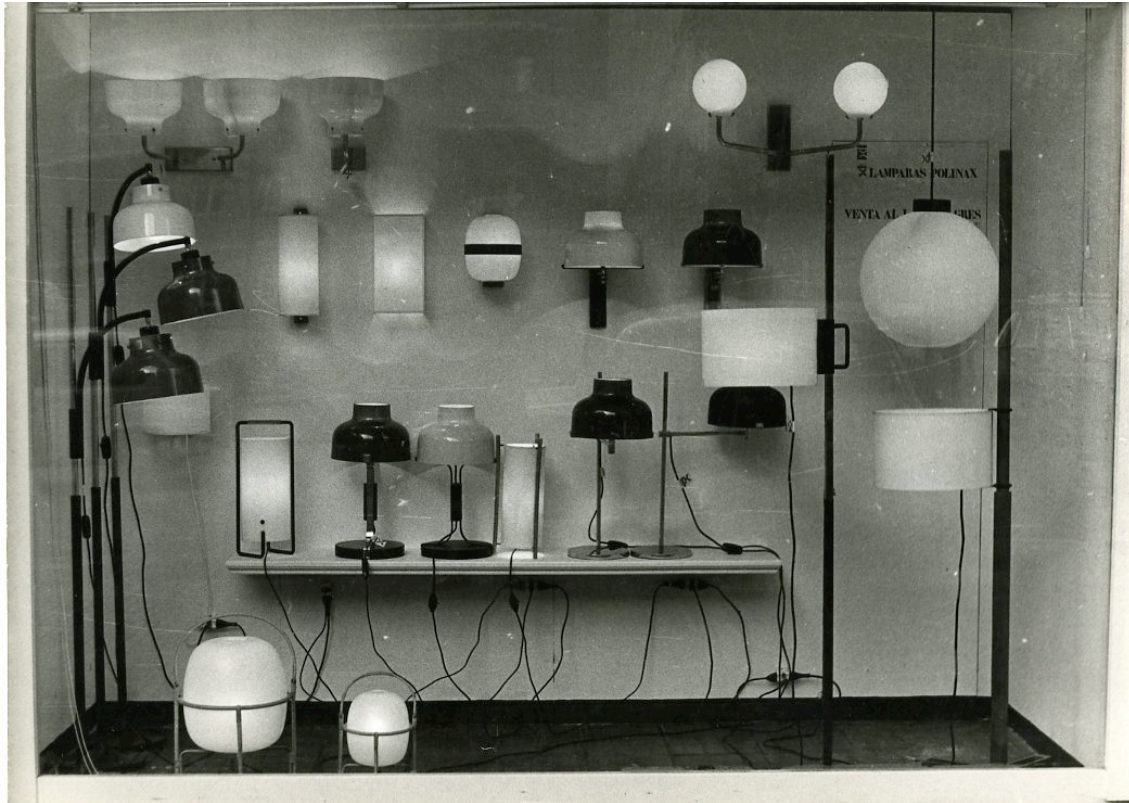
Bedroom design, 1966. Museu del Disseny-DHub. Miguel Milá Collection. © Miguel Milá Diseño

The route, which runs through **eight rooms**, starts with a **sketch of Milá's family milieu**, his **beginnings as an interior designer** and his **foray into design**, almost unwittingly, in the quest for objects that were lacking during those years of scarcity. This personal profile also helps to **capture the inception of the discipline of industrial design**, in which Milá played a crucial role. After that, the exhibition explores the Barcelona **designer's principles and hallmarks**. To do so, it highlights **Milá's connection with the crafts** and his idea of **constant evolution**, his constant quest for objects' optimisation, conservation and sustainability. It also highlights **Milá's contributions to household design**, which was always a constant source of inspiration for the designer, and his **interventions in the urban space**, where he strove to bring simple, ergonomic and economical solutions.

### **(Pre)industrial design**

Miguel Milá, who was born into a bourgeois family in post-war Barcelona and had a clear talent for drawing, initially studied architecture, but he left it and **began working as an interior designer for the company owned by his brother Alfonso and the architect Federico Correa**. Given the scarcity at the time, Milá discovered the need to create new objects that did not exist. Almost unwittingly, he had become an industrial designer. During those years, the architect **Josep Antoni Coderch exerted a strong influence** on Milá, who adopted his simple way of working which focused on function as the most important thing. Later, Milá turned to production by participating in **business initiatives like Tramo, Gres and Polinax**. He was also one of the driving forces behind associations that sprang up around the emergence of this discipline, like **ADI-FAD**.





Showcase of Miguel Milá's studio at Gres, 1964. Museu del Disseny-DHHub. Miguel Milá Collection.

Milá's career has made him a key figure in Catalan and Spanish design. His creations – objects designed with care that are logical, functional and practical yet also elegant and streamlined– earned him accolades like the Delta Silver Award and the **Delta Gold Award** several times, the **Special Delta Gold Award** in 1986, the **National Industrial Design Award** in 1987, the **Creu de Sant Jordi** in 1993, the **Award for Good Industrial Design** in 1994, the Compasso d'Oro Internazionale in 2008 and the **Gold Medal for Merit in Fine Arts** in 2016. His works, which respect the materials, are timeless. In fact, several of his designs –some more than 60 years old– are still being produced. They include pieces that have become design icons, like the TMM, TMC and Cesta lamps, the Salvador chair and the NeoRomántico bench.

**Barcelona has been the crucial site of his career.** The city, which served as Milá's cultural springboard, has become a **showcase of his work**. Barcelona's streets have served as an outdoor museum of objects like his benches, and city residents have enjoyed his works like the redesign of the metro cars, often without even realising it. Plus, in the private sphere, the households of many Barcelona residents did and still do display his pieces, from lamps to shelves, tables and chairs.

This is why the exhibition is a **tribute from Barcelona and the city's design museum to a figure admired and respected in his field** who died in August 2024. This recognition is in addition to the City Gold Medal, which Barcelona City Council awarded to the designer's family last September.

## Miguel Milá at the Museu del Disseny

Ever since it was founded in 2014, **the Museu del Disseny-DHHub has been a repository for Milá's legacy**. The designer himself deposited his archive in the museum, and different private donations have filled the Collection with his pieces. Now, a vast trove of Milá's documents and objects that belong to the Museum's collection are on display in this exhibition.

*Miguel Milá. (Pre)industrial Designer will display a substantial part of the Miguel Milá Collection for the first time*, one of the most important collections conserved at the Museum's **Library and Archive of Design**. It contains 5,000 documents corresponding to 817 projects, 17 management files, five albums and seven scale models in one of the Museum's first donations. In 2014, Museum experts collected these items from Milá's house and started conservation work to ensure their preservation, a job which then continued with the digitalisation of the documents.

The 82 documents that the Library and Archive of Design has contributed to the exhibition include the **designs for the TMC or TMM lamps**—which reveal how these iconic pieces have evolved over their 60 years on the market—, **a notebook from when Miguel Milá studied architecture**, the **scale models of the A-14 fireplace and the spiral staircase** and the **interior design projects for Hospital Clínic and the Barcelona Metro cars**. The exhibition also includes an **interview with the designer** that was recorded in 2018 as part of the Library and Archive of Design's oral memory project. This audiovisual complements the **documentary on Miguel Milá that Poldo Pomés made in 2017**, which will also be shown in the exhibition.

Likewise, **18 pieces from the Disseny-DHHub Museum's Product Design Collection** will also be on display. They include the **A-14 fireplace**, which has been applauded for its sculptural monumentality, and the **M-57 spiral staircase**, a design celebrated for its logic, functionality and aesthetics. In addition to these pieces from the museum's Collection, the exhibition also includes items on loan from Miguel and Gonzalo Milá, & Cole, urbidermis, Escofet, Mobles 114, Fenix Originals, Kendo, Kettal, TMB, Trenat, Isist Atelier, and Expormim.

Thirty-eight objects Milá designed have joined the collection thanks to donations from the designer himself and from manufacturing companies like Gres, Expormim, DAE, Supergrif and Santa & Cole.





Ajuntament  
de Barcelona

**DHhub**



Miguel Milá © Paola de Grenet



Ajuntament  
de Barcelona

**DHub**

**Press contact**

Paula Mateu Badenes

[dhubpremsa@bcn.cat](mailto:dhubpremsa@bcn.cat)

+34 637 39 36 67