

yugonostalgia

I am a lover of all things brutalist. I always have been. I appreciate most design and architecture styles, whether it's contemporary, neoclassical, gothic, industrial, postmodern and the list goes on. For instance, I grew up in a colonial home, and I now have an affinity for those flat faced symmetrical homes with their cute, little window shutters that serve no actual use (at least not in today's world). But, I've always latched on to brutalism and to its core, modernism. Something about the use of few materials, the straight lines, rigid geometry, the no frills, but sometimes playful use of color really lights up my Balkan pride.

Getting to the point of why I brought up brutalism:
YUGOSLAVIA!

If you know me, you know I can't shut up about my Bosnian and Croatian roots. And for good reason! Back in the day, when it was the heyday for the Balkan Peninsula (1950s-1980s), Yugoslavia was known for innovative design that aligned with the modernist movement, that rivaled American and Danish design. I actually see Yugo design as a melting pot of American quirkiness, Italian materials and Danish timelessness with a touch of Balkan folk charm, and I'm hoping my visual references make those descriptors apparent. In 2018, MoMA had a six month exhibition about Yugoslavia's brutalist architecture, and they also included objects like Iskra's home phone, which are now held in MoMA's permanent collection. Of course, due to my obsession, I had the pleasure of seeing this exhibit four times, two of those times with my mom, where she instantly freaked out when the big red kiosk greeted us at the door to the exhibition. Most of these designs and designers did come from what is modern day Slovenia, but regardless, people all over Yugoslavia had these items in their household (and many of them are still being sought after to this day). Even when I go back to visit my family to this day I see the Iskra beige telephone in my grandparents home "na selo" (on the farm).



side & accent chairs do's & don'ts

We all have that side chair in our room that collects clothes, right? Well, let's make sure that chair is at least comfy and pleasing to look at when it's not the site of a growing landfill. If we want to fully avoid utilizing a side chair as our second laundry hamper, we firstly need to make sure it's a chair that we want to sit on. People tend to, at least in my experience, have side chairs that are very uncomfortable and stiff. They typically look good, but lack proper support, comfort and usability for an extended period of time. For example, if you're having friends over to watch a film, I don't think these friends will be coming back to watch a second film anytime soon. Secondly, we have to make sure that it's not too comfortable, that it lacks design sensibility. Sorry if that sounds pretentious of me, but as a common theme I harp on a lot in this newsletter: objects should be beautiful and thoughtful! I should not see a bean bag in your bedroom as a mid-twenty year old. Apologies.

So, with these two conflicting pieces of information, what do you do? Well, since I'm very caring and love helping people out, I'm gonna provide you a list (visual list) of chairs (& some loveseats) that I think are the best side/accent chairs, that you and your friends will love, and will hopefully only hold a pile of your clothes maybe once a week!



old world finds: cigar felts

Recently I went to the grand bazaar at 77th street (every Sunday from 10am-6pm) with a couple of friends. I successfully purchased another lamp to add to my collection, bought two vintage Japanese serving trays, got a silk scarf and found some cufflinks. But, I also stumbled upon an item I had no idea existed: a cigar felt. Well, that's what the seller called it, but after further research, that's just a nickname for tobacco flannels and cigarette silks. A quick summary on these is that cigarette/tobacco manufacturers between 1910-1915 would either package these with their products or they would be exchanged for a certain amount of tickets collected from purchasing tobacco products. Think about them as an old world version of Marlboro miles, if you remember those little pieces of paper that would be packaged in cigarettes that could then be used to trade in for items like watches, wallets, ashtrays etc. These then would be used to store cigars, cigarettes and other tobacco products. Another use that came from these was quilt making, since they were usually made from a thicker felt or flannel material. Anyways, I've since fallen down the rabbit hole of finding really beautiful designs on these cigar felts. The one I purchased was a vintage flag of Serbia from 1910 for about ten dollars! Designs range from botanical illustrations to flags of different countries to butterflies, and with some more eBay sleuthing I bet there's even more. Currently I'm using mine as a surface protector for a dresser, but these would look beautiful framed or just hung straight up on a wall, or if you want to be old world with it, get into quilt making!



round up

Ababović Hot 100



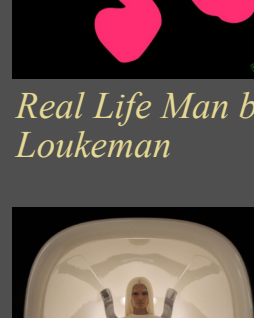
Theme by Cibo Matto



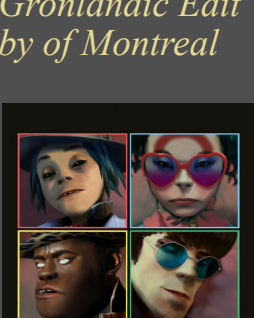
Give it Up 2 Me by Ojerime



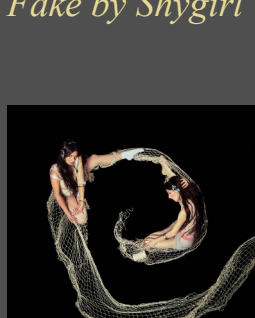
Southern Comfort by Burial



Real Life Man by Loukeman



Gronlandic Edit by of Montreal



Fake by Shygirl



Banquet by Bloc Party



Raven remix by Kelela ft. Bbymutha



Charger by Gorillaz ft. Grace Jones



Butterfly Net by Caroline Polachek ft. Weyes Blood

apple music

spotify

Film to Watch:



If there's one thing you need to do this week or upcoming weekend it's to sit down and watch the film, *Society of the Snow*. Such a well done film that will have you questioning what you're doing with your life and make you feel like a piece of shit any time you've complained about being hungry. The casting was done perfectly, the story was heartbreaking yet such a beautiful statement on the power of love between friends and it's visually striking. I cried a lot. 9/10.

thank you for reading
talk soon

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