

GUBI

Product story
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TAVOLO A DISCHI





GUBI presents the Tavolo a Dischi by Carlo De Carli

Stacked-disc dining table is a mid-century Italian masterpiece

A single glance at the Tavolo a Dischi is enough to see that the table is a work of architecture as much as it is a piece of design. Combining structural innovation, expressive materiality, and functional excellence, Carlo De Carli's 1963 dining table embodies his belief that there should be no distinction between designing a building and an object.

A multi-layered masterpiece

Formed from stacked concentric wooden discs, the Tavolo a Dischi is De Carli's response to Eero Saarinen's iconic Tulip Table – a design he loved. Over a dinner conversation with the pioneering furniture producer Luigi Sormani, De Carli envisaged a table of similar silhouette, defined by overlapping wooden discs of varying diameters around a central core. The result is a visually light yet structurally robust table, with a distinctive sculptural quality.

First launched by Sormani in 1963, the Tavolo a Dischi was immediately lauded for its originality, and remained in production for the next two decades, becoming a much-admired feature of many design lovers' homes around Europe, as well as a centerpiece in studies and conference

rooms. In the 1970s, when De Carli was Dean of the Politecnico de Milan's Faculty of Architecture, the Tavolo a Dischi was first a fixture of his office, then moved to the Department of Architectural Design, where it hosted meetings, faculty council discussions, and debates with students.

Now, after an absence of over four decades, the Tavolo a Dischi joins GUBI's expanding Carlo De Carli Collection. GUBI has worked in close collaboration with De Carli's family to return this mid-century classic to homes and workplaces worldwide.

Designed around human behavior

De Carli recognized that the primary role of a dining table was not to be a practical surface, but rather to be a forum for human interaction, and that – intimate and egalitarian – round tables are especially well suited as places of encounter and conversation. Seating up to six people, the Tavolo a Dischi exemplifies this, supporting both the ritual of dining and the exchange of ideas by creating a shared space for meaningful moments and memories.



To meet the needs of more compact living spaces, a second tabletop size – 120 cm – will join the larger 150 cm version, with both using the same sculptural base. Seating up to four, the smaller table brings the design's striking presence to more-compact homes, or can serve as an elegant statement piece in hallways or studies.

A complex, crafted construction

Though simple in its silhouette, the Tavolo a Dischi's construction is complex in form, structure, and aesthetic detail. Stacked discs of FSC®-certified birch plywood and wood from other responsible sources (FSC® C176589) conceal a cylindrical metal core, which lends the table stability. The base is accented by a protective band of burnished brass-toned steel, creating an engaging contrast with the wood's material expression.

Each 3cm-thick disc is crafted from customized birch plywood, meticulously layered to ensure structural integrity. As the discs shift in diameter—widening at the base, narrowing towards the center, and expanding again at the

top—the unique composition of the plywood creates a distinctive striped effect, accentuating the natural materiality of the wood along the stem.

Made from FSC®-certified plywood and wood from other responsible sources (FSC® C176589), the walnut-veneered discs are carefully sized and aligned to create graceful, flowing curve. Although not symmetrical on the horizontal axis, the curve is visually harmonious. It lightens the overall appearance of the table while ensuring the stability of the tabletop in stained walnut veneer. The natural tones and textures of the walnut veneer shift with the changing light, giving depth and dynamic character to the tabletop.

A timeless mid-century original

Simple in expression, playful in materiality, and timeless in appeal, the Tavolo a Dischi encapsulates De Carli's architectural imagination and his passion for human-centered design. In its richly layered form, it is a table for living – where form, function, and the daily rituals of human life converge.