

MARIO CARRERI



Two-seater sofa which cleverly adjusts for individual occupants. There are 11 different positions, from upright for reading to flat for sleeping



Maureen Walker reports on a winning design from the Milan Furniture Fair

# EASY OPTIONS

New furniture designs can be as carefully guarded as any industrial secret. The seating, pictured above, was the object of much curiosity before its launch last week at Milan's Furniture Fair. Its designer, Vico Magistretti, regularly produces the sort of winning ideas which less inspired manufacturers can't wait to

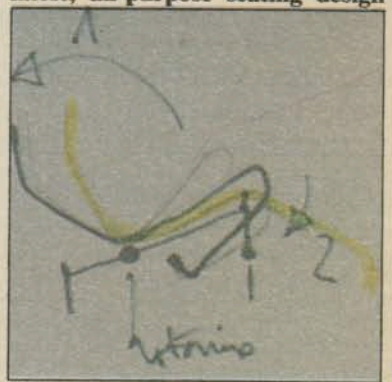
copy (poorly). They know that with 13 furniture designs in New York's Museum of Modern Art, Magistretti is the man to watch.

What the man has come up with this time is a natural successor to two of his other well-known designs, pictured below. He has combined one's adjustability with the other's

thin, flying carpet-like upholstery and developed them into seating which "floats" on a thin metal frame and adjusts for sitting, lounging or lying. The design's indoor/outdoor connotations are deliberate - he calls it Veranda. "It's nice to have something in the home to remind you of your holidays. I like ambiguity and humour in design."

Made by the Italian firm Cassina, with whom he has had a 20-year association, Veranda will be here from October 1 (Designers' Saturday - the annual architects' and designers' beano day) at Oscar Woollens, London NW3. Magistretti will be there, too. Like most creative people he considers his latest work his best and one from which he will create many variations: "I'm sure a generation will come from it". And many imitations.

Vico Magistretti. Below: one of the working drawings from which evolved his latest, all-purpose seating design



Maralunga (1973) with convertible backrest. Right: Sindbad (1981) with thin throw-over upholstery



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