

## BOOKCASES & BOOKSHELVES

### The List #3

The October month List is about bookcases and bookshelves. They are the display cases of life and of the person who lives in that space: beloved books, special gifts, collections or small decorative objects. Only when bookshelves are full can they truly express themselves.

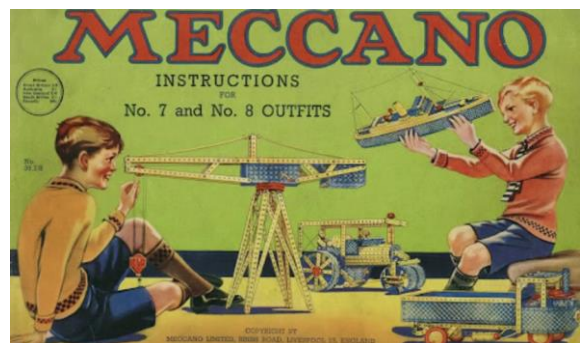
*Image Cover: Barthélemy d'Eyck, Still Life with Books in a Niche, 1442-1445, oil on canvas, 30 x 56 cm, Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam*

Whether located in the home or office, **bookcases and bookshelves** are in a distinct and complex world of their own. Because while a unique sofa, chair or table can furnish a space on their own, a bookcase can't perform its intrinsic function without displaying objects on its shelves. Bookcases and bookshelves are the display cases of life and of the person who lives in that space: beloved books, special gifts, collections or small decorative objects. Only when bookshelves are full can they truly express themselves. After all, they are like small homes that we make unique.

It was not easy to create this list. Like all lists, this one cannot and should not be exhaustive, because as writer Mario Soldati said, "whoever wants everything wants nothing". So my apologies go to the other hundreds of important bookcases, bookshelves and shelving systems in history that will not be mentioned here. But that's the beauty of lists: they can be endless.

### DO YOU RECALL MECCANO?

*Samer Alameen, Eret console, JCP Universe, Italy, 2018*



Meccano was the construction game set invented in 1901 in Liverpool by the great inventor Frank Hornby and was originally called Mechanics Made Easy before being patented. It was a game that, with its metal strips, screws and bolts, made you feel like an engineer, giving you the possibility to create bridges, machines and robots.

Who knows how many designers discovered their vocation as children with this fun set. It was educational, taught basic principles of mechanics, and was the inspiration for Eret, a console made from perforated stainless steel rods and bolts with adjustable shelves.