



PRESS RELEASE

June 2017

MAISON&OBJET PARIS SEPTEMBER 2017



Designer of the Year ASIA 2017 & Rising Talents ASIA 2017:
A unique and exclusive showcase

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From September 8-12, 2017 in Paris Nord Villepinte, M&O PARIS will unveil the works designed by WOHA, Designers of the Year ASIA 2017, and the winners of the Talent Awards Asia 2017.

M&O PARIS, a leading international business platform for high-end design and luxury industry, has for the last 22 years successfully facilitated numerous business partnerships, honoured celebrated and emerging designers as well as curated acclaimed showcases.

Philippe Brocart, Managing Director of SAFI, is proud to put the M&O Talent Awards Asia 2017 under the limelight. "This will offer our visitors an opportunity to meet and discover some of the best design talents from Asia-Pacific, as well as to understand the multi-faceted creative landscape in one of the most exciting regions. The Designer of the Year Asia and the Rising Asian Talents will demonstrate their ambitious capability from architecture to interior design, product design, bespoke art and craft. We look forward to welcoming this gathering of top Asian design communities in Paris".

Designer of the Year Asia 2017

WOHA, the world-renowned, Singapore-based architectural firm founded by WONG Mun Summ and Richard HASSELL, is the Designer of the Year Asia 2017. The practice's award-winning projects, celebrated for its integration of environmental and social principles into its design practice, include PARK-ROYAL on Pickering, Oasia Hotel Downtown and School of the Arts in Singapore; Alila Villas Uluwatu in Bali, Indonesia; InterContinental Sanya Resort in China; The Hyde in Australia, among others.

At the September fair, WOHA will debut their lifestyle brand WOHAbeing in a 90sqm showcase in Hall 7. It will feature four curated collections of edition pieces ranging from furniture, lights, carpets, accessories, table and bath ware.

Rising Asian Talents 2017

Always at the forefront of the promotion of emerging designers, M&O will present the award winners with the opportunity to exhibit their works and meet with the international design communities in the September edition. The winners of the Rising Asian Talent Awards 2017 are ADesign Studio (Australia), Lim+Lu (Hong Kong), Jinggoy Buensuceso (the Philippines), Kamaro'an (Taiwan) and Atelier 2+ (Thailand).



Designer of the Year Asia 2017 WOHA

present WOHAbeing

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Singapore-based architectural practice WOHA is **MAISON&OBJET** Designer of the Year ASIA 2017.

WOHA, founded by Mun Summ Wong and Richard Hassell, has developed projects in Southeast Asia, China, and Australia, ranging from apartment towers to luxury resorts, underground stations, condominiums, hotels, educational institutions, and public buildings.

As master planners, architects, interior and industrial designers, WOHA create integrated environments, designing not just the building itself but also the objects within this environment and thereby creating an uninterrupted, consistent design language.

WOHA's signature is a unique fusion of practicality and invention. Their architecture is renowned for its constant evolution and innovation, a strong awareness of local context and tradition, intertwined with an ongoing exploration of contemporary architectural form-making and ideas.

On the occasion of M&O September 2017, Mun Summ Wong and Richard Hassell will introduce the first four collections of WOHAbeing, including products such as furniture, lights, carpets, accessories, table and bath ware, all designed in the belief that "the objects around us must draw together our cultural history, our sense of place, and our contemporary needs, in doing so, they will be authentic and possess their own unique beauty. We like our designs to tell us stories about who we are."

The collections designed by Mun Summ Wong and Richard Hassell have been developed in partnership with Apaiser (bathware), Industry+ (outdoor furniture), The Rug Maker (carpets), Luzerne (tableware) and Wonderglass (lighting), chosen for their social and environmental sustainability credentials as well as superb craftsmanship and skills.

"WOHAbeing is about living well by living simply and sustainably, and celebrating the beauty of our world. It is about making and craft, balance and proportion, and about texture, colour and form."



MAISON&OBJET pavillon © WOHAbeing

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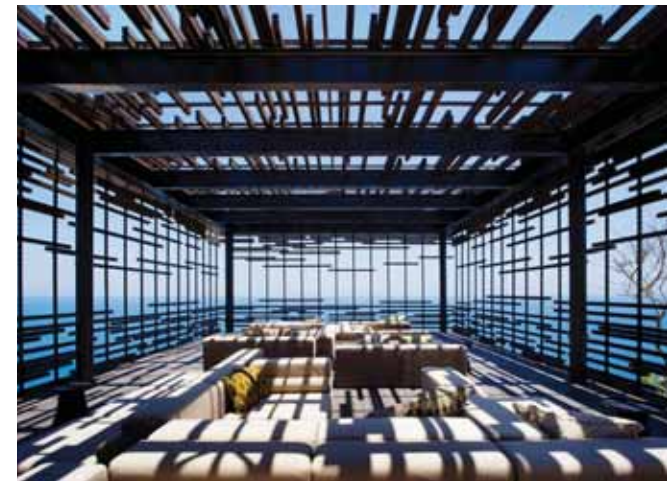
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Sculpted sky terraces from aerial viewpoint © Skyshot Pte Ltd



Sunset cabana © Patrick Bingham-Hall



View of sky terraces from club lounge © Patrick Bingham-Hall



Sunset cabana overlooking Indian Ocean © Patrick Bingham-Hall



Lim + Lu studio

by Vincent Lim and
Elaine Lu



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An inter-disciplinary design practice based in Hong Kong, the internationally acclaimed Lim + Lu studio projects include architecture and interior design, furniture and product design services.

Co-founders Vincent Lim and Elaine Lu met at Cornell University where they were studying architecture. They initiated Lim + Lu as a side project in 2013 in New York while Vincent was an architect at Kohn Pedersen Fox and Elaine focused on retail interiors at Tiffany & Co. After a successful showcase at ICFF in 2014, they moved to Hong Kong to pursue Lim + Lu full time the following year.

Born and raised in the East, educated and practiced in the West, the balance of both cultures is essential to Vincent and Elaine and has always transpired through their design, escaping labels. "People often ask what our design studio focuses on. It is a tricky question because we tend to avoid categorization. We believe in holistic design -design as a lifestyle. For some of our interior projects, we also design the furniture and products in order to achieve a coherent look. Trained as architects, we've always been used to the architectural way of thinking: macro to micro. We think from the city scale to neighbourhoods, then buildings to units, rooms to furniture to table top products".

They find inspiration everywhere, from the largest buildings to the smallest items. But their designs are always rooted into reality, looking towards real-life use, answering real-life questions.

"Our thought process may be ignited from a piece of beautiful marble or children's building blocks. As far as aesthetics are concerned, we often use colors and bold lines to provoke an emotional response. Design is made for people, it should trigger the senses. Practicality and aesthetics should always go together. In terms of practicality, flexibility is the main feature, such as our Frame table with its ever-changing form. In today's society of constant change, nothing should be static. Design must complement and at the same time challenge the way people live".

Vicent Lim and Elaine Lu were delighted to be selected as a Rising Asian Talent for M&O. "As Asian designers with an international background and education, it is critical and our responsibility to bring light to the design scene in Asia to show that we're not just manufacturers for the world, we can be creatives, thinkers and innovators".

<http://limandlu.com>



Asian Flip Candle by LIM+LU © All rights reserved

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Asian MLC © by Nirut



Asian Frame table © All rights reserved



Asian Lunar Mirror © by Nirut



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ADesignStudio

by Alex Fitzpatrick



Alex Fitzpatrick grew up on three different continents: born in Canada, he then lived in Australia and India. He trained as an Industrial Designer at the University of Alberta, Canada and finally set up his practice, ADesignStudio, in Sydney, Australia, focusing on architectural lighting and luminaire design.

'We Light to Enhance Life' is the studio motto. Alex Fitzpatrick believes that the power of lighting can transform space, experience, emotions or increase health and wellbeing by 'balancing the scientific and poetic aspects of light'.

'We like to create a light where you don't see the light, you only witness the reaction of the material, its reflective power and the way and it helps to diffuse the light. All materials are different. I am fond of glass, how it captures the light -it's a very theatrical process. But we like to embark on new stories, try different techniques, push different things'.

Alex Fitzpatrick's travels and experience have left their imprint on his work. Australian heritage and society are a strong influence: the Greenway family of lighting takes after the architectural heritage of Sydney's coast, echoing the forms of lighthouses dotted along its shores.

Named after convict architect Francis Greenway (who designed Australia's first lighthouse in 1818), the range combines history with modern technology.

Metals give the fittings longevity, which is the definitive purpose of our lights: to be decorative, functional and durable. The metals we use can pull enough heat from the LED bulbs. This is the finely-tuned technical, engineering side of our work: maximising the energy-efficiency, considering the warmth of light and ensuring a long life to our products'.

From Tokyo to Milan, the multi-awarded ADesignStudio has taken part in international design exhibitions. Alex Fitzpatrick's works will be showcased for the first time in France at Maison&Objet Paris.

www.adesignstudio.com.au



Asian Greenway © ADesignstudio

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Asian Light Garden © Adesignstudio



Asian Eon © Adesignstudio



Asian Light Garden Eon © Adesignstudio



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Atelier2+

by Worapong Manupipatpong
and Ada Chirakranont



Atelier2+ is a creative design-studio based in Bangkok, Thailand. Worapong Manupipatpong and Ada Chirakranont graduated in Interior Architecture at King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang in 2009, then received a master's degree from Konstfack University College of Arts, Crafts and Design (Sweden) in 2009.

"After moving back home, Ada and I set up a small studio in 2010 where I mostly do some carpentry work. We also enjoy other disciplines and are not sure, in the end, how to define ourselves ". Their extensive range of works speaks volume: Worapong Manupipatpong and Ada Chirakranont are designers, craftspeople, architects and artists.

"Our works borrow from art, crafts and design. We also work in different scales ranging from product design or furniture design to interior design and architecture, collaborating with design brands both locally and internationally. "

At Maison&Objet Paris, Worapong Manupipatpong and Ada Chirakranont will unveil their new CANE collection.

"The idea behind this collection was to show caning under a new light. This method of weaving surface used for furniture is quite typical in Asia. Cane is derived from the peeled bark of

the rattan stalk which grows in tropical areas of the world and is most commonly found in South East Asia. "

The CANE Collection is designed by Atelier 2+ and manufactured by PODIUM, a long-established Thai woodcraft company, renowned for their specific expertise.

Worapong and Ada focused on the unique quality of cane, suffusing "warmth and gracing interiors with a timeless feeling. It has a long tradition, rooted in the 17th century when European trade with Asia was starting to flourish". The Atelier2+ designers have added a modern twist to the traditional story, using the cane in a resolutely contemporary way to imagine chairs, sofas, beds, screens, lamps or cabinets.

"We appreciate the historical touch as well as a certain sense of place every time we work with this material, observing the craftsmanship process. It's interesting to see how this tropical material has travelled through the world along the centuries and has become part of other stories, in faraway countries with very different cultures".

www.ateliertwoplus.com



Atelier product © Atelier 2



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Jinggoy Buensuceso



Jinggoy Buensuceso is a visual artist and designer based in the Philippines. Influenced by his childhood in the province of Bataan and his exposure to the art and architecture scenes of New York and Singapore where he lived, and after graduating from the University of the Philippines with a Fine Arts degree in Visual Communication, he immediately worked with international companies, designing fashion accessories.

His collaborations include jewellery design for Denovo Diamonds, a pop-up ELLE Deco Café, furniture for Luzon Rattan or planters for Hive. Kenneth Cobonpue, the very first Maison&Objet Asia “designer of the year” and founder of Hive, described Jinggoy Buensuceso as an “an expert in the play of metals and welding techniques”.

A three-time Mugna and Katha awardee in the Philippines, he was named 2016 Outstanding Asia Talent by Wallpaper Magazine Thailand. Among his most acclaimed designed are the Spider Chair and the Moth Chair, which Jinggoy is particularly fond of, explaining that their graceful design also reminds him of his grandmother's eyes.

“From the back, you’ll notice the silhouette of a very singkit eye [a Filipino term for almond-shaped eye].” Hence its alias, the ‘Conching Chair’, after his beloved grandma’s name.

Metal is Jinggoy Buensuceso's favourite medium: he finds it very challenging and equally rewarding. “It’s hard to control the temperature to get the form. But it follows my orders. As a friend, it gives me a lot of ideas”.

His works evokes organic forms, “inspired by the beauty and form of nature”, expressed with metal, wood or cement. As a furniture designer, he has created hybrid pieces meant to evolve design into art. In 2015, Jinggoy founded his own brand of creative objects, BETA.

“My studio is set up in a black house: I am inspired by the different textures and intensities of black, as much as by the nature around me. Some people find this color negative. But do you know that if you put all colors together, the result is black? For me, black is creative, an infinite canvas of possibilities. It is full of character, ideas and concepts. ”

<http://jinggoybuensuceso.com>



Asian Topography Shelf Buensuceso © Patrick Cureg

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Asian Moth Chair Buensuceso © Sam Manalo



Asian Constellation Baskets Buensuceso © Patrick Cureg



Asian Splash Buensuceso © Beta Design Co



Asian Simpay Buensuceso © Sam Manalo



Kamaro'an

Yun-Fann (*marketing director*) and
Shane Liu (*designer*) will be representing
the brand at Maison&Objet Paris.



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Kamaro'an was born from a collaboration between artists and young Taiwanese designers.

In May 2013, three students attending the National Taiwan University of Science and Technology started their project, embracing a vision rooted in the concept of social enterprise. The idea was "first, to introduce the unique aesthetics of the Amis artists to the mass by artistic designs, and then drive the tribal economy through the local craft industry."

The company was incubated at the university as part of a business design lab that matched tribal artists with business students. In the Pangcah language, the meaning of Kamoro'an is "the place to live". The Makuta'ay tribe, whom the artists belong to, is located along the coastline in eastern Taiwan.

In the 1990s, Rahic Talif led a group of youths from the tribe to open a new path of modern art based on driftwood ; the successful initiative started a social change, seeing tribal youths leaving cities and returning home to take part in the creative venture based on the longstanding culture of Pangcah.

Kamaro'an was the next step, creating functional and beautiful design pieces based on the tribal artists' works, every piece crafted by the local community. "We offer respectful payroll to local weavers, and share profits with artists".

Kamaro'an collections of lightings and accessories revive traditional craft via living design.

In Maison&Objet Paris, Yun-Fann, marketing director of the brand, and designer Shane Liu will introduce driftwood and woven furniture, exploring natural materials and delicate craftsmanship through contemporary designs.

"We believe design products can be as organic as agriculture. This is a continuous progress recombining the relationships between earth, humanities, product and consumer".

www.kamaroan.com



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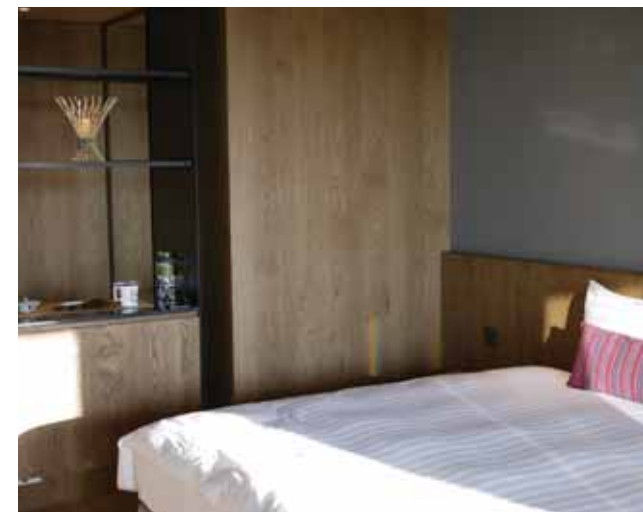
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MAISON&OBJET PARIS
8-12 September 2017

PARIS DESIGN WEEK
8-16 September 2017

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