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KRAM/WEISSHAAR
Multidisciplinary designers

Reed Kram and Clemens Weisshaar are based in Stockholm and Munich respectively. Their design studio, Kram/Weisshaar, founded in 2002, has created media installations and interfaces for Prada's Epicenter stores in New York and Los Angeles; data visualisation tools for BMW; a table for Moroso; the 'Triton' barstool (above) for ClassiCon; and plates for Porzellan-Manufaktur Nymphenburg, showing the night sky at the birth date and place of the buyer.

Describe your style.

There is no style. Every project is a challenge, an opening for something new.

Where do you find you do your best work?

In the office and on planes.

Dream project?

One would be to design a motorbike.

What's in the pipeline?

Two media installations in the residence of a private client. A book on 'Breeding Tables' coming out next spring, published by Actar. Many more tables. A very exciting project with Artek. A store for a mobile phone company in Porto's Casa da Música with OMA.

What do you think was the trend of 2007 in your field?

Rampant globalisation has led to turbulent conditions for design: established organisations collapsing and new forward-thinking models given the chance to prosper. Cross-pollination and change have become necessary for survival. In this way, turbulence has opened doors for previously unthinkable opportunities.

www.kramweisshaar.com



HENRIK MARSTRAND
Eco-entrepreneur

Marstrand is founder and CEO of Mater – a high-end home accessories design company with a conscience, which launched at 2007's Maison et Objet fair in Paris. Not a designer, Marstrand calls himself the 'make it happen' guy and sees his role as connecting the right people with the right designers. The debut collection includes work by American Todd Bracher (such as the 'Inout' pitcher, above) and is as concerned with creating timeless, beautiful design as it is with supporting local crafts and the environment.

Where do you find you do your best work?

When I'm in-between places – on a train, in an airport.

Dream project?

To make Mater a company that makes significant contributions to local communities and at the same time delivers outstanding products and financial results.

What's in the pipeline?

An experimental collection to be sold via auctions or galleries in spring 2008. The profit will be fed directly to sustainable programmes in developing countries.

What do you think was the trend of 2007 in your field?

When Todd Bracher visited India, he was captivated by marble, the capabilities of the craftsmen and the ways you can combine different stones together. I feel this is just the tip of the iceberg.

www.materdesign.com



SPACE GROUP
Architects

We've had our eye on this Norway-based trio – Gary Bates (who curated this year's Oslo Triennale), Gro Bonesmo and Adam Kurdhal – for a couple of years. Wallpaper* featured their imaginative V House in our Architects Directory 2006, and they have continued to impress. They have some ambitious competition entries and, in the next year or two, are due to complete some major commissions, including a big urban/retail redevelopment in Oslo, a hotel in Trondheim (above) and a company HQ. Space Group may have worked mainly in Norway so far, but the three architects' previous experience in offices such as OMA and Studio Libeskind, and the numerous awards they have already won (mostly national, but also at the 2005 Rotterdam Biennale) are a further promise of an exciting future for this practice.

Where do you find you do your best work?

Passionate, demanding, critical collaborations drive our designs and it is in environments that stimulate creative promiscuity where we do our best work.

Dream project?

This is it – it's underway.

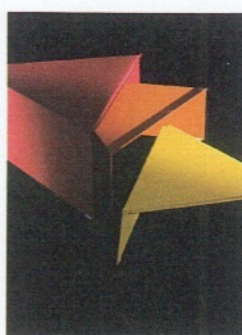
What's in the pipeline?

To head east into Latvia and Poland.

What do you think was the trend of 2007 in your field?

Less architecture and more development, more performance, more pleasure and a greater awareness.

www.spacegroup.no



STEPHEN BURKS
Industrial/product designer

New York-based designer Burks initially made a name for himself in Europe with shelves and vases for Cappellini, a light for David Design, a desk and wall shelving for Modus, and a towel rack for Zanotta. It's only recently, with the global success of his bathroom accessories for Boffi and 'Part' stacking tables for B&B Italia (above), plus the fact that he was chosen to judge the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Awards 2007, that he has gained the recognition he deserves Stateside. Not limited to product design, Burks' three-man studio, Readymade Projects, has created a fragrance bottle for Calvin Klein and art-directed installations for Missoni and Vitra.

Describe your style.

A good friend once told me that my work is all about lines, drawing lines or the tracing of lines through structure. I don't disagree, but I would argue that there are some planes and volumes in there, too.

Where do you find you do your best work?

While moving... on a train or plane or something.

Dream project?

The design of my own family's home one day.

What's in the pipeline?

New fragrance projects, a dining table, a flat-pack lighting collection, more bathroom accessories and some chairs.

What do you think was the trend of 2007 in your field?

Design as art and the cult of unlimited limited editions.

www.readymadeprojects.com



LIBBY SELLERS
Design curator

Formerly curator at the Design Museum in London, Sellers established her own concept gallery earlier this year. Determined to nurture talent, she launched with an exhibition of specially commissioned work by four British designers (such as 'Tail Light' by Stuart Haygarth, above). The show, 'Grandmateria', held in a vacant space on Exhibition Road, became a highlight of London Design Week and is also featuring at Design Miami (7-9 December).

Describe your style.

Intense. Never ceasing. Questioning all that is around us.

Where do you find you do your best work?

Curating exhibitions is much like producing a play – all the preparation of the plot, characters and set goes on away from the public eye, and then, on opening night, the curtains come up. It's those final minutes that I enjoy most and in which the energy and anxiety pushes me to my best.

Dream project?

I'm doing it.

What's in the pipeline?

The goal is to have a permanent space in central London, where designers can express their ideas through limited editions.

What do you think was the trend of 2007 in your field?

There's been an explosion of dialogue about limited-edition design – or the 'new design-art'. Collectors and consumers want something more than the readily available objects on every high street.

www.libbysellers.com