

# Modern Design Review

A masterclass in chair design with Yrjö Kukkapuro  
Martino Gamper in an Arts & Crafts mash-up  
Daniel Rybakken on the irrepressible quality of daylight  
A nod towards New Minimalism  
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Woodism

Spring/Summer 2014



# Endmatter

## Your new terra

In Roberto Rossellini's 1950 film *Stromboli*, the people who live in the shadow of the active volcano both love and fear it. The volcano is a powerful natural phenomenon that Italian designers Studio Formafantasma have become fascinated with. 'When Mount Etna erupted in 2013, the dramatic event was broadcast by a haunting noise of rumbling stones and a vast plume of dark smoke that completely obscured the sun. After the smoke, black earthen debris began showering down over the villages and cities within the immediate vicinity of the mountain. From the highway through to the Greek Theatre in Taormina, everything was covered with black. Mount Etna is a mine without miners – it is excavating itself to expose its raw materials.' Andrea Trimarchi and Simone Farresin of Studio Formafantasma had already begun working on De Natura Fossilium – melting, blowing, weaving, casting and milling basalt, lava sand and stone – when Mount Etna erupted. They have turned this primitive – violent, even – material into refined objects including glass blown by Murano and clocks.



'So let's build a sauna there! Not the usual semi-civilised travesty of the old Finnish sauna, but a cultural sauna, a national monument, the first of its kind in the budding Finnish civilisation.'  
Alvar Aalto 1925

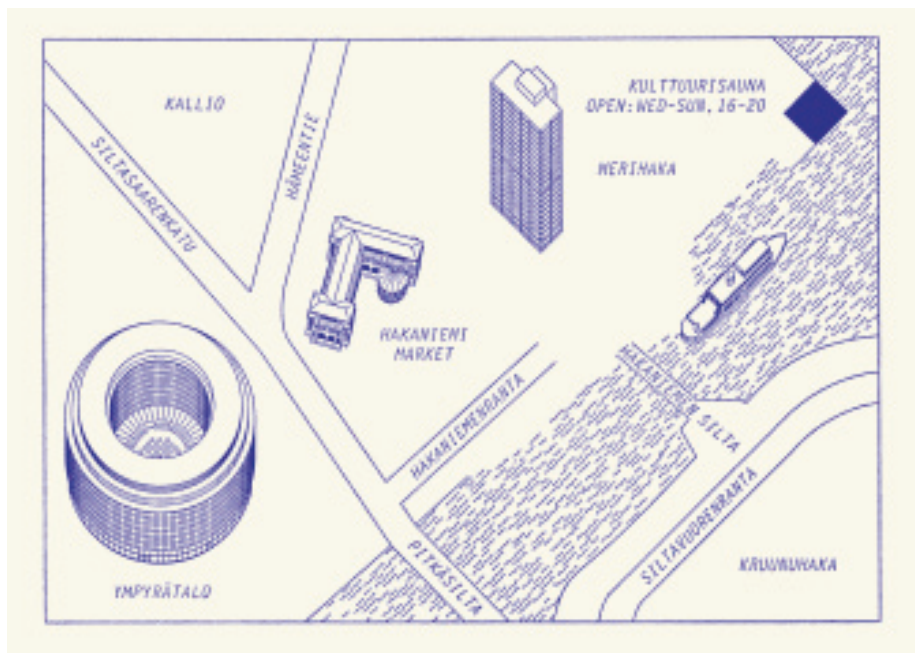


## Building art is life in materialised form

As you slip off your shoes and place them neatly on the rack by the door, you might catch sight of Tuomas, architect and owner of this place. Or Nene, co-owner and partner, who is often behind the counter taking the customers money. This is Kulttuurisauna, a new public sauna in Helsinki that has been built not by the government, a property developer or an investment fund, but by an architect and an artist: Tuomas Toivonen and Nene Tsuboi.

The Kulttuurisauna opened in 2013 and is already hugely popular. The sauna in Finland has so many connotations it is difficult to explain the full extent of its importance to Finns: it represents community and democracy; it is spiritual and contemplative, restorative and precious. There are 1.5 million saunas in Finland today but most are privately owned – the 'coming together' of communities to bathe was once common but now increasingly rare. For Tuomas and Nene this was something to set right, and the place they have built is the amalgamation of lots of different stories to do with ideas about community, personal ambitions, environmentally rigid building practices and cultural consciousness.

Tuomas and Nene run the sauna, with their architectural practice (Now Office) taking a space in the back. They serve boiled eggs in paper bags and the view of the city lights on the black water is every now and then disturbed by the passing of a gigantic ferry. This is a design project that is somehow more than the sum of its parts: a successful and strangely poignant urban idyll.



Above left, below: Courtesy Gallery Libby Sellers