

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**
The theory of colour by **Scholten & Baijings**
Woodism

Spring/Summer 2014



Issue 1

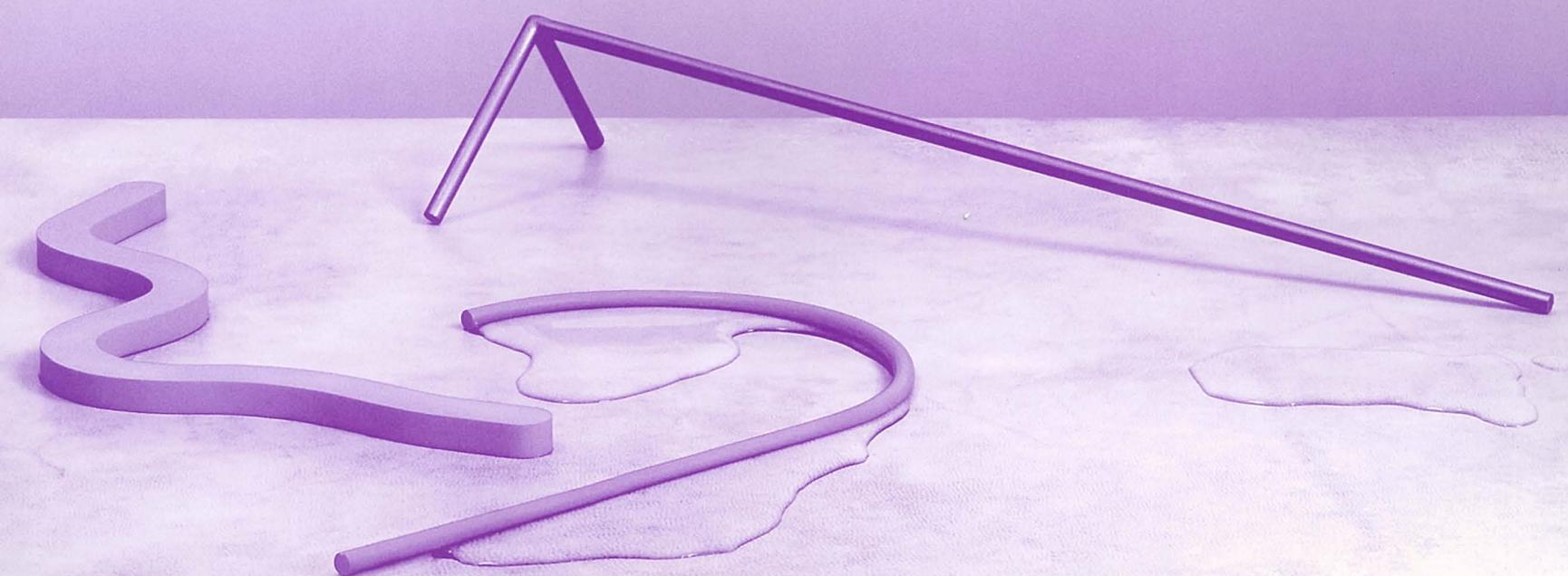
£12



01

9 772054 968001

Modern Design Review



Modern Design Review

Issue 1
Spring/Summer 2014

13 Review

16 A postmodern posture

Revisiting Yrjö Kukkapuro's adventures in ergonomics.

32 Arts & Crafts, conflict and comfort

Martino Gamper versus Rennie Mackintosh.

48 Off the shelf

The art of collection and display.

54 Don't buy the tree, buy the mountain

Traditional Japanese wood joints.

66 What we think about when we think about wood

Sam Hecht and Kim Colin on working with timber in the 21st century.

68 Woodism

Contemporary designers enjoying wood.

74 So, so, Sogetsu

Eikou Sumura demonstrates the art of *Ikebana*.

80 A vase is a vase

Nicholas Trembley on the enduring typology.

82 Daylight comes sideways

Capturing, before recreating, natural light with Daniel Rybakken.

96 In praise of In Praise of Shadows

Daniel Golling on shade and pathos in contemporary design.

98 A fine line between

A remarkable debut: the story of Muller Van Severen.

110 Endmatter

Some small stories and big ideas.

moderndesignreview.com

Editor-in-Chief: Laura Houseley
Art Direction and Design: Graphic Thought Facility
Sub Editor: Murray Healy
Contributing Photographers: Matthew Donaldson, Marius W Hansen, Osma Harvilahti, Jaron James,
Angus Mill, Angela Moore, Kalle Sanner, Scheltens & Abbenes
Contributing Writers: Anna Bates, Corinna Gardner, Daniel Golling, Sam Hecht & Kim Colin, Nicolas Trembley
Editorial Assistant: Rosalind Hutchings
Intern: Nadja Jeppsson

For editorial enquiries: info@moderndesignreview.com

Published biannually by Modern Design Review Ltd
2 Rockwell Gardens, London SE19 1HW
www.moderndesignreview.com

For advertising enquiries: info@moderndesignreview.com
Distribution by White Circ Ltd
All content copyright of Modern Design Review Ltd 2014
Reproduction is strictly prohibited

Colour separations by DL Imaging, London
Printed by Pureprint Group, Uckfield
Printed on Arctic Volume White 115, 130 and 200 g/m² from Arctic Paper www.arcticpaper.com

Modern Design Review is set in Haas Unica and Starling.
We are very grateful to Dave Farey and Richard Dawson of Housestyle who have kindly designed for us our very own headline fonts.
MDR Display Sans and MDR Display Serif are bold, characterful fonts with exceptionally large x-heights.

Thanks to everyone who has given us their support and encouragement: friends and family, Mum, Dad, Mark.
Also to Isa Kukkapuro-Enbom, The Glasgow School of Art (Kate Hollands and Edwin Pickstone), The Modern Institute (Toby Webster),
Sogetsu School, Eikou Sumura, Jefferson Hack, Nowness, Martino Gamper, Benchmark, Pureprint Group (Richard Osborne) and Arctic Paper



Gallery Libby Sellers



Gallery Libby Sellers presents
'De Natura Fossilium' — a celebration of lava
by Studio Formafantasma

libbysellers.com



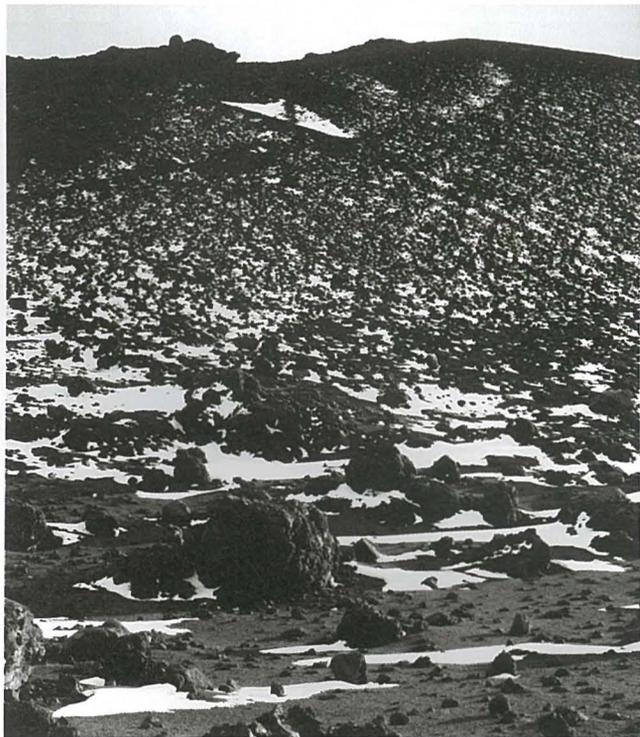
MICHAELANASTASSIADES

WWW.MICHAELANASTASSIADES.COM

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

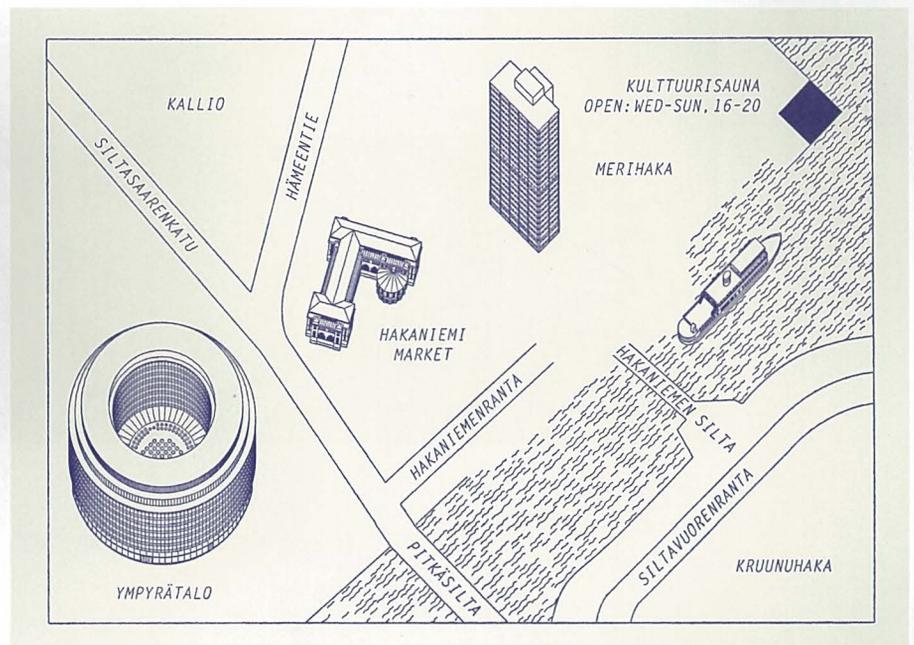


Building art is life in materialised form

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



Writing desk (unlacquered steel and polyethylene)