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Editorial Director, Architecture Review and Architects' Journal
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Jury Biographies



Mr Werner Aisslinger

Founder
Studio Aisslinger
(Germany)

The works of the designer Werner Aisslinger born 1964 cover the spectrum of experimental, artistic approaches, including industrial design and architecture. He delights in making use of the latest technologies and has helped introduce new materials and techniques to the world of product design like in his unique gel furniture with the collection "soft cell" and the chaise, "soft" for zanotta in 2000. The "Juli chair (cappellini)" was the first item of furniture to use a new type of foam called "polyurethane integral foam" and became the first German chair design to be selected as a permanent exhibit at the Museum of Modern Arts (MoMA) in New York since 1964. In the process he has created striking designs and received awards from all over the world — from Milan's Compasso d'Oro to the Design Prize of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Red Dot Award or FX Award in the UK. Werner Aisslinger's, "loftcube"—project became one of the most discussed modular and transportable housing projects within the last years.

His work is exhibited in permanent collections of international museums such as the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) and the Metropolitan Museum in New York, the French Fonds National d'Art Contemporain in Paris, the Museum Neue Sammlung in Munich, and the Vitra Design Museum in Weil, Germany.

Werner Aisslinger lives and works in Berlin.

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Mr Sonny Chan Sau Yan
Principal
Chan Sau Yan Associates
(Singapore)

Chan Sau Yan, Sonny was born in 1941 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. He had his primary, secondary and tertiary education in Malaysia and the United Kingdom, graduating as an architect in 1963 from the Northern Polytechnic of London and did post graduate Tropical studies at the Architectural Association in 1964.

Thereafter, he practised in London with Arup Associates. He returned to Singapore in 1965 to continue his practice and established Chan Sau Yan Associates in 1993, after 29 years in his previous firm as a senior partner.

His experience encompasses a wide range of residential, commercial, institutional, recreational and tourism related projects in the region as well as internationally. His extensive experience in resorts and city hotels span over 39 years working with international chain operators including Hyatt, Sheraton, IHG, Mandarin Oriental, Hard Rock Café.

His firm has won many awards for design excellence. In 2001, he was awarded URA Heritage Award for 45 Emerald Hill, Innovators Award for Hard Rock Café Bali and top prize in the competition to design the Singapore Embassy in Bangkok. The project Hotel Maya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia won Malaysia Interior Design Award 2005, SIA Architectural Award 2006 and PAM 2006 Award. Sonny Chan also received the prestigious President's Design Award 2011 - Designer of the Year.

Not contented to simply evoke our senses through his signature creations in locations from Abu Dhabi to Bali, Sonny Chan is also a teacher true to his calling, sharing with aspirants the world over his knowledge and understanding of designer concepts and urban development challenges. He has been an external tutor and associate professor at the School of Architecture, National University of Singapore. He was also a founder member of the Singapore Planning and Urban Research Group and has served in the professional and government institutions, acting in various capacities.

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Ms Lei-Mei Julia Chiu

President, Icograda (International Council of Communication Design)

Executive Director, Japan Institute of Design Promotion

Professor, Musashino Art University
(Japan)

Leimei specializes in international policies on creative cities and has worked with governments and academic institutions across Europe, North America and the Pan Pacific Rim to implement design policies and strategic visions for the development of creative industries.

She has lectured at design conferences and academic institutions in over 31 countries. From 1997 to 2001, Julia served as an Icograda Vice President and Executive Board Member of the International Council Societies of Industrial Design (Icsid) from 2007-2009. A recipient of Icograda President's Award, she has served on numerous competition juries including Adobe Design Achievement Awards, APCI Award, BIO (Biennale of Industrial Design), Red Dot Design Concept Award, Red Star Award, Brno Biennial, Design for Asia Award, Most Successful Chinese Designer Award, SABS Design Excellence Award, World Design Leadership Award, World Package Organization Competition and the Good Design Award.

Founded in 1963, Icograda is the world body for communication design, with over 215 member organizations (design promotion centers, professional design organizations, academic institutions and corporate members) in 129 cities and 67 countries. Icograda maintains consultative status with UNESCO, UNIDO and WIPO. Icograda is a member of IFRRO and is in liaison with technical committees of ISO.

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Mr Paul Finch

Director, World Architecture Festival
Editorial Director, Architecture Review and Architects' Journal
Deputy Chairman, UK Design Council
Chair, Commission for Architecture and Built Environment
(United Kingdom)

Mr Paul Finch is Director of the World Architecture Festival (which he co-founded in 2008), Editorial Director of the Architectural Review/Architects' Journal, and Deputy Chair of the UK Design Council, where he also chairs the architectural organization Design Council, CABE (Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment).

Born in London in 1949, Mr Finch studied history at Selwyn College, Cambridge, before going into publishing. After seven years in real estate journalism, he became Editor of Building Design, the architectural weekly, in 1983. In 1994 he joined Architects' Journal where he was Editor for five years. After a period as Publisher and Editorial director, he edited Architectural Review from 2005 to 2009.

In 1999 he became a commissioner at the newly formed government Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE), became Deputy Chairman, and chaired its design review panel for five years, followed by a further five as chair of its Olympic design review panel. He became Chair of the organization in 2010, and helped oversee its move to the Design Council in 2011.

Mr Finch was made an OBE (Order of the British Empire) in 2002 for services to architecture. He is an honorary fellow of the RIBA (Royal Institute of British Architects) and of University College London, and holds an honorary doctorate from the University of Westminster. He is an honorary fellow of the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland, and an honorary member of the Royal Society of Architects in Wales. He is a former council member of the Architectural Association. He has co-edited Planning in London since 1992.

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Mr Garrick Hamm

Creative Partner
Williams Murray Hamm
(United Kingdom)

Garrick Hamm is Creative Partner at London-based brand design consultancy, Williams Murray Hamm (www.williamsmurrayhamm.com). WMH work includes branded packaging, identity, film, retail and exhibition.

Garrick graduated from Somerset College of Art in 1989 to join Michael Peters and Partners. He left after four years to join Tutssels / Lambie-Nairn where he worked across a variety of design disciplines. Garrick joined Williams and Murray in 1999. Award winning projects include branding Dixon Retail's service brand KNOWHOW, Jamie Oliver's Recipease store and more recently the rebrand of Broadgate, City of London. Accolades include a D&AD Yellow Pencil, NY Festivals Gold, a Gold Lion (Cannes) and numerous Clio's.

Garrick is a former President of D&AD and a Fellow of the RSA. An avid filmmaker, his most recent shot, "The Man Who Married Himself" won Best Comedy Award at the LA Shorts Festival (2010).

Garrick has a keen interest in design education, recently running workshops in the UK, Beijing, Singapore and Hong Kong. He has been profiled in the Financial Times and Communication Arts.

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Mr Bhanu Inkawat
Creative Director
Greyhound Co. Ltd.
(Thailand)

Bhanu is the co-founder and a major shareholder of Greyhound Co., Ltd.

Since Greyhound first opened its door in 1980, he was responsible for the overall brand creativity and design from the collection to shop design to overall graphic collateral of the brand.

The first store was opened at Siam Center, launched with men's casual collection.

Later in 1990, expanded its line to women's wear and shortly followed by shoe, bag and accessories line.

In 1998, Greyhound has added more aspects to the brand by expanding to food business, the first Greyhound Cafe was opened at the Emporium shopping complex and became a popular eating-place for Bangkok's trendy crowd.

Throughout these 32 years Bhanu has always been the key force in growing the brand and maintaining its leadership position.

Before Bhanu joined Greyhound full time in 2003 he was playing a key role at Leo Burnett Thailand Ltd. In 1978 he started off as an Art Director; in 1984 he assumed control of the agency's creative department; and in 1989 was appointed Executive Creative Director. A few years before he left advertising world, he was the Chairman of the Board, responsible for the overall policy and direction for the agency. Bhanu was also the key founder of Bangkok Art Director's Association and took part in many judging of advertising festivals in both regional and world events, including Cannes Advertising Festival.

Bhanu studied at Chulalongkorn Demonstration School, and then completed his secondary school years at St. Paul's College, and took a foundation year at Auckland Technical College in Auckland, New Zealand. He then moved to London and got his graphic design degree at Harrow College of Technology & Art and earned a diploma from the Society of Industrial Art & Design (SIAD) in England.

Apart from working for fashion, food and advertising he also enjoys regular cooking for friends at his home.

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Mr Kengo Kuma
Principal
Kengo Kuma and Associates
(Japan)

Born in Kanagawa Prefecture in 1954, Kengo Kuma established Kengo Kuma & Associates in 1990.

His numerous residential works, museums, and other public facilities have received on-going critical acclaim and have won him several national and international awards including the prestigious Architectural Institute of Japan Award in 1997. Recent projects include the LVMH Group Japan headquarters completed in 2003, Suntory's new Tokyo office building, and the Kodan apartments scheduled for completion this year.

In addition to his professorship at Keio University's Faculty of Science and Technology since 2001, Kengo Kuma frequently lectures at other institutions. Also devoted to his writing activities, he is the author of five books including the best-selling *Shin Kenchiku Nyumon* (New Introduction to Architecture; 1994). He is a leading lecturer and writer on contemporary Japanese architectural theory.

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Mr Chris Lee
Founder & Creative Director
Asylum Creative Pte Ltd
(Singapore)

Chris Lee is the founder and creative director of Asylum, one of the most respected creative companies in the Asia.

Since its inception in 1999, the creative company has focused on cross disciplinary projects that include interactive design, product development, environmental & interior design, packaging, apparel design, branding and graphic design. Featured in numerous magazines from around the world, Asylum is defined as an unconventional maverick in the creative world.

Asylum's work in the creative industry is recognized with more than 100 international awards. Chris is the recipient of the President's Design Award for the 'Designer of the Year' and 'Design of the Year' categories in 2009 and 2010 respectively. He has served as a juror for many of the top International creative awards such as D&AD, Red Dot, The One Show and Tokyo Type Directors Club.

Chris is also a founding member and president of The Design Society, a non-profit organization that aims to promote visual culture through exhibitions, workshops and education.

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Mr Ng Sek San
Principal
Sek San Design
(Malaysia)

Ng Sek San is trained as an engineer (civil) at the University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand. He did his post graduate in landscape architecture at Lincoln University, Canterbury, New Zealand

After spending 12 years studying and working in New Zealand, Sek San returned to Asia to practise with Belt Collins International for 4 years in Singapore, servicing their hospitality projects in Asia. In 1994, Sek San returned to Kuala Lumpur to set up his own landscape consultancy – Sek San Design.

In the last 18 years of private practice, Sek San has attempted to weave symbiotically between the hard and imposing world of architecture and the soft evolving organic world of plants and landscape.

Sek San projects a self-effacing vision, a profound respect for nature, the environment and a belief in committing to making works that reflect an egalitarian lifestyle, simple, uncluttered, affordable and not overtly finished.

He eschews the principle of treading the land lightly as possible, being irreverent to manmade rules and conventions, and advocates extreme restraint in design.

In the last 8 years, Sek San experimented with the idea of returning the profession to a craft based tradition instead of following the trend of companies growing into big global businesses. All his projects are now concentrated in Kuala Lumpur and he does not take on overseas or outstation commissions. Sek San prefers local works as he can better understand the subtle idiosyncrasies of context, weather, culture, light quality, cost, workmanship, etc. It allow his practice to get into a lot more depth and also to collaborate with local clients, who knows and trust his practice better, and allows him to take bigger risk on their projects.

Sek San Design projects can be viewed at www.seksan.com.

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Mr Dick Powell
Co-Founder
Seymourpowell
(United Kingdom)

Dick Powell is co-founder of internationally renowned design and innovation company Seymourpowell. Dick is the current Chairman of D&AD, and has twice been president of D&AD. As Chairman, Dick is a mentor to the team at D&AD and strives to call on the government and business leaders to recognize the value of embedding design and creativity into the DNA of British businesses.

Dick has appeared on numerous radio and television programmes alongside business partner Richard Seymour, and has sat on the boards of the Design Council, the Design Business Association and the D&AD Executive. Dick was global design advisor to Samsung Electronics and is currently a member of the International Advisory Panel for Design in Singapore.

Founded in 1984, Seymourpowell has produced some of the 'milestone' products of the last two decades, including designs for the world's first cordless kettle and pocket mobile phone. The company's design innovation work ranges from consumer appliances, electronics and mobile phones, to transportation - including cars, motorcycles, trains and planes. The company has risen to a commanding position on the international stage, with clients as diverse as Unilever, Panasonic, Tefal, LG, Nestle and Diageo. Recent highlights include concept design work for the Virgin Galactic spacecraft as well as a concept design for Samsung Construction and Trading called Aircruise – a giant, vertical airship powered by natural energy and designed to carry travellers in style and luxury. Other specializations include ethnographic user research, strategy and new product development (NPD), trends and forecasting, product design and development, and 3D structural design and 2D graphic design.

Using Seymourpowell's wide-angled approach, fuelled by parallel knowledge and experience, the company also works with large FMCG companies to re-engineer the fragmented and misunderstood innovation process.

With over 30 years' experience, Dick Powell believes passionately that design is not just about being different or more stylish, but about being better - better primarily for people and ultimately therefore also business and the world. Dick and Richard took this idea to television, making 12 programmes for Channel 4 (Equinox, Designs on Your..., and Better by Design) that followed the development of new products, from the genesis of new ideas through to making them happen. They brought fresh thinking to kitchen bins, razors,

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burglar alarms, the economy airline seat and the all-important shopping trolley. Most famously perhaps was the design of a bra for the bigger bust, and an innovative toilet.

In his presentations, Dick describes his role as 'visioneering': creating innovative designs for things people desire and providing vision and focus for clients.

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Ms Rita Soh Siow Lan

Principal
RDC Architects Pte Ltd
(Singapore)

Ms Soh has been elected President, Board of Architects Singapore as of January 2010, for a term of 3 years.

She is also currently serving a second term as a Board member in the Singapore Land Authority.

Ms Soh is the Deputy Chairman, Zone B, of the Architects Regional Council of Asia (ARCASIA) from 2008 – 2010 and had previously served as Chairman of ARCASIA Professional Practice Commission from 2004 to 2008.

Ms Rita Soh was the President of the Singapore Institute of Architects from 2004 – 2007. She was instrumental in establishing a Blueprint for the architectural profession in its pursuit of Architectural Excellence as well as a Pro-Enterprise approach in architecture.

To champion Asian Architecture, Ms Soh, with Getz, launched the bi-annual SIA-Getz Architecture Prize for Emergent Architecture in Asia in 2005.

Ms Soh was a jury member in the Design Evaluation Panels for the Integrated Resorts at Marina Bay & Sentosa Island, the Gardens by the Bay Design competition, The Singapore Sports Hub as well as the National Art Gallery.

She was also a jury member for the Inaugural President's Design of the Year and Designer of the Year in 2006 and again in 2007.

She had served as a member in the URA Design Advisory Panel from 2007-2009 and the URA Conservation Advisory Panel from 2004 to 2007.

As the Chairman for the Architectural Design Workgroup promoting national standards for computer-aided workflow, Ms Soh was awarded both the Distinguished and Merit Awards, by Spring Singapore, Standards Council of Singapore in 2005 and 2002 respectively.

In the pursuit of empowering architects with the use of technology, she has founded the commercial company, SIACAD Pte Ltd under the Singapore Institute of Architects in 2001 and has served as a Custodian Director since then.

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Mr Dan Stubbergaard

Director and Founding Partner
COBE Architects
(Denmark)

Dan Stubbergaard founded COBE Architects in 2005 and is the creative driving force in the daily work at COBE's Copenhagen office. He is involved in all phases of the studio's projects - from sketching to design and project management.

Alongside his architectural practice, Dan has been teaching at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts in Copenhagen and lectures internationally on COBE's current projects. COBE is an internationally operating office based in Copenhagen and Berlin. Since the beginning COBE has gained a reputation as an innovative company, by winning a number of high profile projects and prizes. Currently COBE is realizing projects, such as the Nørreport Train Station in the centre of Copenhagen, The ROCKmagnet, Denmark's museum of rock music in Roskilde and consulting the City of Berlin for the IBA 2020.

COBE wants to contribute towards building more decent, equitable, beautiful and sustainable cities. The company seeks to develop specific, innovative solutions for each assignment, with competences that include the physical realization of architecture, strategic urban planning, landscape design and research.

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Mr Tai Lee Siang
Group Managing Director
Ong & Ong Pte Ltd
(Singapore)

Mr Tai graduated with honours from NUS in 1987 and has practiced as architect and urban planner since 1990. His key projects won both local and international award and was featured in a URA exhibition “20 under 45” in March 2004.

He held the position as President of Singapore Institute of Architects from 2007 to 2009. He consolidated the institute’s “Blue Print” to establish numerous firsts.

On the Design front, he led the inauguration of ARCHIFEST – a festival that promotes architecture excellence among the professionals and general public. He then pioneered the first Practice Convention 2009 – a strategic forum to address practice concerns of Singapore architects. In the same year, Mr Tai also initiated the establishment of Architecture Professional Course; preparing young graduates to sit for Professional Practice Examination. In 2010, Mr Tai chaired the formation of DesignS – an alliance comprising 8 Design-centric Associations to promote Singapore Design Brands.

On sustainability front, Mr Tai was appointed as Chairman of REACH, Environmental Sustainability Committee in 2008 - a committee to provide feedback to the Inter-Ministry Committee on Sustainability Development. Mr Tai formed the SIA Green Committee leading to the first collaboration on Green product exhibition with BEX Asia 2009 and International Green Building Convention with BCA. Since March 2010, he is elected President of Singapore Green Building Council, a key body for the promotion and advocacy of Green Buildings in Singapore. He is also the Chairman of the Campus Planning Committee for Singapore University of Technology and Design, Ministry of Education.

He is currently the Group Managing Director of Ong & Ong Pte Ltd, a multi-discipline consultancy firm that provides 360° solution encompassing Urban Planning, Architecture, Engineering, Landscape Architecture and Interior Design.

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Dr. Erwin Viray

Professor, (Head
Graduate School of Architecture Design
Kyoto Institute of Technology
(Japan)

Erwin Viray is Professor of Architecture and Design at the Kyoto Institute of Technology, Japan.

He has been Editorial Associate of a+u (Architecture and Urbanism), Tokyo since 1996.

He obtained a BS Arch (cum laude) from the University of the Philippines in 1982, a Master of Engineering in Architecture at Kyoto Institute of Technology in 1986, and a Doctor of Engineering in Architecture at the University of Tokyo in 1991.

Erwin Viray was formerly Assistant Professor in the Department of Architecture at the School of Design and Environment of the National University of Singapore (NUS) before taking up the position of Professor of Architecture and Design at the Kyoto Institute of Technology in July 2011. He was appointed Head of the Graduate School of Architecture Design in March 2012.

He is also Design Critic of Architecture at the Harvard University Graduate School of Design (GSD) in Cambridge, MA, USA.

He has received awards from the Council of Europe Swedish Institute Scholarship (1986), Japan Foundation Fellowship (1990), and the Kyoto City Appreciation Award (2001).

Erwin Viray was a member of the jury of the Zumtobel Award for Humanity and Sustainability and of the Asia Architecture Olympiad in 2009.

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Mr Thomas Wee

Founder
ThomasWee Maison
(Singapore)

Thomas Wee has been in the fashion industry for over 35 years, since being a finalist in the first Young Fashion Designer Contest organized by Her World magazine in 1978. He was one of the designers, known as “The Magnificent Seven”, selected by the Trade Development Board to exhibit and showcase his collections in Tokyo and Osaka in 1980 and Paris in 1981 and 1982. He has represented Singapore in “The best of Asian Designers”, “The Best of Best” and “The Premier Designer Show” in 1985. Wee has been invited to present his collections and has shown in major Asian cities.

He opened his first high-end boutique in 1983. In 1986, he started “Mixables”, the first career wear line for women in Singapore by a Singapore Designer. The success of Mixables led to helping diffusion lines: Pretá, Sino and bridal gown label ‘Made in Heaven’. Highly anticipated as Singapore’s fashion legend and ‘the grand master of precision tailoring’, Wee’s style is instantly recognizable through his impeccable workmanship, cutting edge 3D forms and innovation in his apparel.

Thomas is recognized as a fashion designer of rare talent and is reputable for his pattern making skills. He is also respected as the “King of Jacket” for his perfectly tailored suits. He dresses some of the most prominent fashion stylish women in Singapore and the region.

For eleven years since 1999, he taught fashion design and pattern drafting at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts. He is also one of the main mentors for young design talents under Parco Next NEXT incubator program, organized by Spring Singapore and the Textile and Fashion Federation of Singapore. Today, he is a senior advisory lecturer at First Media Design School, helming the fashion design faculty. Throughout the years, he has judged numerous young designers contests.

In 2008, after a hiatus of 11 years, Thomas made a sensational comeback with a fashion show at Audi Fashion Festival. He was also one of the three top Singapore Fashion Designers that opened the Women Fashion Week 2011, Singapore’s first haute couture event that was graced by Didier Grumbach, president of the FEDERATION FRANCAISE DE LA COUTURE DU PRET-A-PORTER.

In 1991, the Straits Times selected Thomas Wee as the Young Entrepreneur of the Year. Recently in 2011, he was voted by CNN Power List as one of the 30 people who have shaped Singapore.

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Nathan Yong
Owner and Designer
Nathan Yong Design
(Singapore)

Nathan Yong graduated from Temasek Polytechnic with a diploma in Industrial Design in 1991. He began his career not as a designer, but as a buyer as well as engaging in product development for various companies in Singapore. Through these jobs, he travelled to various countries including India, Vietnam, Thailand and Indonesia to source for quality manufacturers and craftsmen to develop and manufacture furniture and home accessories. Through this exposure, he learnt various production techniques and crafts.

In 1999, Nathan started his first retail store called Air Division, selling his own creations made by Asian craftsman. Air Division rapidly grew and claimed commercial success in both Singapore as well as the overseas market. Nathan subsequently sold Air Division and pursued a Master degree from the University of New South Wales, Australia, which he subsequently graduated with distinction in Master of Design.

For two consecutive years (in 2006 & 2007), Nathan won the prestigious Red Dot Concept Design Award with his conceptual designs of a mass production coffin and a portable room heater.

Subsequently in 2008, Nathan received the prestigious Singapore President's Design Award- Designer of the Year, the highest honour accorded to designers from all design disciplines in Singapore.

His work is inspired by simple visual memories from everyday life, but pared down with the lightness of restraints. Instead of superfluous details, he captures the poetry of products through rigorous research and engineering, creating fresh styles and functions that fit effortlessly into the user's life, as though they were nothing new.

Currently based in Singapore, Nathan runs a multidisciplinary design consultancy practice. His work spans across industrial design, graphics, interior design, architectural design, strategic planning in product development and manufacturing processes as well as branding.

Nathan's work has been exhibited globally in various cosmopolitans such as Singapore, Shizuoka, Milan, London, Koln and Taipei. His clients includes Design Within Reach (USA), Ligne Roset (France), Living Divani (Italy), Opinion Ciatti (Italy), Sphaus (Italy), Domicil (Germany), Ethnicraft (Belgium), Grafunkt (Singapore), FOLKS furniture (Singapore) and many others.