

08th NOV 2010 | Dutch Design Week: Highlights

The Dutch's impact on the world of design over the past decade is undeniable. The newly focused Dutch Design Week gathers the country's names in Eindhoven, a city that is home to one of Europe's leading design schools, Design Academy Eindhoven. The event highlights both ideas and names to watch in the future.

Ontwerpduo

Tineke Beunders and Nathan Wierink graduated from Eindhoven Design Academy in 2008 and have since been developing their own line alongside a series of private commissions. Wierink told Stylus that the decision to construct their prototypes in green was conscious – paying off because the palette of grass, apple and bottle complemented the warm oak and copper lighting.

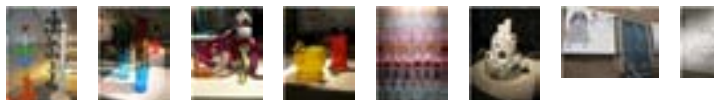
Clever weighted cushions are clasped with oak so they can be propped and positioned easily. Industrial and fairytale references combine in a rocking crib/ chair, bell jar LED lighting, moulded candlesticks, and a birdcage-like, swinging chair.



Oiva Tokkia

Iittala presented a retrospective of Tokkia's work, one of the Finnish lifestyle brand's key collaborators. Outside and inside walls of the space were decorated with Tokkia's naive and fantastical illustrations, going some way to explaining the imagination behind his 3D work.

Tokkia's handsome mouth-blown birds were shown alongside towering, sculptural pieces. Working with glassblowers in rural Nuutajärvi since the Sixties, the artist humbly admits he is still today exploring with the forms he began with. Having worked with plastics, glass, illustration, ceramics and set-design Tokkia's career has been both experimental and commercial.



Piet Hein Eek

The Eindhoven-based designer has refurbished an expansive former Phillips ceramic factory in the northwest of the city and opened the doors in time for Design Week. Surrounded by slagheaps and wasteland, the cold industrial space makes a dramatic but fitting setting for the multi-functional project. It accommodates a permanent store, pop-up eatery, showrooms, workshops and manufacturing spaces for PHE and fellow Eindhoven based designers.

Eek has taken control and collated his own design, manufacturing, distribution and sales all under one roof, reminiscent of fellow design luminary Tom Dixon's The Dock, in London. Eek is also representing Dixon in his space.

Spanning two floors, the PHE store stocks the full range of wares designed by the label. Kitchens, upholstery, furniture and lighting



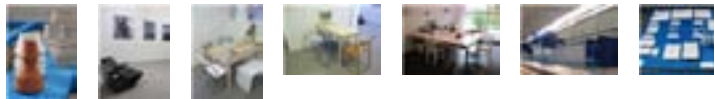
are accompanied by mass-produced utility, Jeanine Eek Keizer blue washed vintage ceramic dinnerware, the Aesop line and a decent selection of books.



Onomatopee

Supporting and promoting Eindhoven's creative community, Onomtaopee is a multi-faceted outfit that exhibits designers and artists and publishes theoretical writings. Its waterside location is home to a bookstore and gallery plus the café Onomataopub, run by designer and cook Anouk Parijs.

During Design Week Onomatopee showed designs alongside detailed writings intellectualising the creator's process, all displayed in a rigged graphic blue construction. Also on display were journals and photographs by supercool duo Lucyandbart whose work explores the confines of self by ornamenting the body with sometimes strange and unexpected adornments.

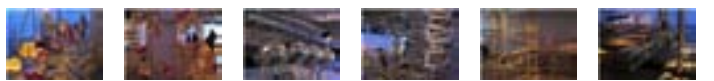


Melvin the Magical Mixed Media Machine

Melvin the Machine is a bit of a Rube Goldberg; a deliberately over-engineered machine that performs a very simple task but carries it out in an extremely complicated way.

The brainchild of the Dutch design duo HeyHeyHey, Melvin is a crowd-sourced medley of objects including everything from children's windmills to glitterballs. Created to celebrate the design process rather than the finished outcome, Melvin is an evocative experience of moving parts and chain reactions.

Melvin the Machine contains various digital elements, including Facebook and Twitter accounts as well as cameras so he can be photographed like a superstar, while performing unexpected "super moments" throughout the week. Unfortunately, because of his complicated nature, Melvin was unable to perform for the Stylus team but it still made for an entertaining visit.



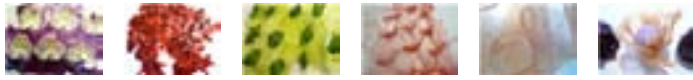
deli.wear

Amsterdam-based company, de culinaire werkplaats, run by food designers Marjolein Wintjes and Eric Meursing, is a multidisciplinary blend of restaurant, design studio, gallery, cooking space and other "secret" ingredients.

Working to create the "dinnerplate of the future", Wintjes and Meursing offer a fresh approach to what is happening on your plate by creating conceptual projects that invite people to "shake up their culinary lifestyle".

During Dutch Design Week de culinaire werkplaats was showing deli.wear - an inspiring installation of edible fashion fabrics made from vegetables, fruit and herbs. The installation explores future cradle-to-cradle textiles designed to reduce waste and draw attention to the vulnerability of the ecosystem and the temporality of fashion.





Dutch Invertuals

The Dutch Invertuals, founded by Wendy Plomp, is a collective of nine talented designers including Carolina Wilcke, Mieke Meijers and Daphna Isaacs & Laurens Manders.

During Dutch Design Week the Invertuals presented the multidisciplinary exhibition, Matter of Time. The medieval oak wood that served as the foundation of the Eindhoven city entrance 600 years ago has been transformed by the designers into contemporary products, loaded with Dutch history.

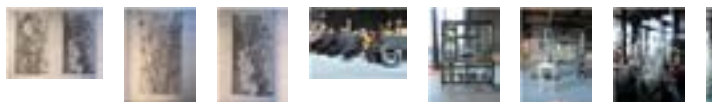
Using the concept of time and the aesthetic of the material as inspiration, Mieke Meijer's Relativitytimepieces subvert the subject of time into physical volume, weight and temperature. These objects of intrigue draw the viewer in and make you stay a while, encouraging you to lose track of time.

Max Lipsey's project, Evidence of Effort, transforms the wood into simple tools that explores a medieval way of working. Designer Carolina Wilcke produced, Please Do Touch, a series of beautifully crafted objects that encourage the spectator to experience the work with all five senses.



Eat Drink Design

A key dining destination during Dutch Design Week was Eat Drink Design, a pop-up restaurant conceived by designers Annemoon Geurts and Koen Rijnbeek along with chef Edwin Severijn. Located next to the Blob near the Eindhoven Design Academy, Eat Drink Design combined a dining experience with an exhibition. The venue itself, an old cinema, made for an atmospheric industrial space. The dining area set in front of an open kitchen was furnished with the work of artists and designers, the rest of the space bringing together pieces for sale by names such as Maarten Baas, Joost Van Bleiswijk and Kiki van Eijk.



Kiki van Eijk and Joost van Bleiswijk

Eindhoven based designers, Kiki van Eijk and Joost van Bleiswijk presented their work in a joint exhibition titled "Moods". Located in the sprawling Phillips complex of Strijp S, the pair's most recent projects were sited in separate spaces created to reflect their mood at the time they produced the work. Access to the exhibition was via their workshop, giving an insight into the day-to-day workings of the space and progress of new projects.



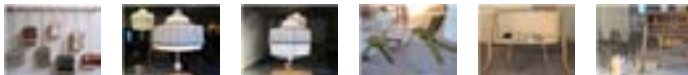
Lotty Linderman plus Wouter Scheublin



As part of Piet Hein Eek's vast new space at Strijp R, Design Academy Eindhoven graduates Lotty Linderman & Wouter Scheublin opened their new studio space to the public.

Linderman presented her Tentlamp lightshades and her collection of mobile storage units called Tassenkast, which question the difference between a fashion item and a piece of furniture.

Intertwined, Scheublin exhibited his widely known frame chair, produced with the British manufacturer Established & Sons, and showed off the beauty of mechanics with his most recent walking furniture series. The collection includes a handcrafted mechanical bookcase and a wooden table that, when pushed, comes to life, challenging the static nature of furniture.



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