

Press Release

Milan, April 2018

MILAN DESIGN WEEK: THE LITTA VARIATIONS/4th MOVEMENT AT PALAZZO LITTA

London architecture studio **Asif Khan** is the selected guest of the fifth edition of the annual event. On view are brands, academic institutions, products, and designers from the international design landscape.

From April 12-22, Palazzo Litta, the historical landmark in the heart of Milan, takes center stage for contemporary design with the show ***The Litta Variations/4th Movement***, a project curated by **DAMN°** and **MoscaPartners**.

The past editions of the series *A Matter of Perception* had explored how everyday objects are perceived. As their titles suggest, the 2015 edition and the 2016 edition *Products & Materials* with the installation of **Marcio Kogan** and *Tradition & Technology* with **Diébédo Francis Kéré**, respectively, focused on products, materials, tradition and technology. The 2017 edition, *Linking Minds*, centered around projects born from meetings, collaborations, friendship, mutual trust and experience, with the intervention by **Diller Scofidio + Renfro**, achieving such noteworthy success that the last edition counted more than fifty thousand visitors.

The upcoming 2018 edition ***The Litta Variations/4th Movement*** is inspired by music practices and particularly by the formal technique of variation. From music to design, the challenge is to investigate the concept of variation in the creative processes of studios and brands.

The Great Courtyard of Palazzo Litta hosts **Tempietto nel Bosco**, an installation by the London-based studio **Asif Khan** debuting at Milan Design Week. Khan is renowned for his exceptional projects which include the MegaFaces pavilion at the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, the Coca Cola Beatbox in London at the 2012 Summer Olympics in London, the Summer House at the Serpentine Galleries in London, the Guggenheim Helsinki Plan, the U.K. Pavilion at the Expo 2017 in Astana, the Hyundai Pavillion in PyeongChang during the 2018 Winter Olympics, and the Museum of London in West Smithfield.

The wood-based installation for *The Litta Variations/4th Movement*, unique in the way in which it slants upwards, explores **the natural element of the forest** while simultaneously exploring **the architecture of an open-air cathedral**, an extension of the Renaissance structure of Palazzo Litta, which, by way of a matrix of interconnected rooms and corridors, leads to **a space of tranquility and relaxation**. "The intimate rooms are intended as a place to unwind and converse during the intense marathon that is Milan Design Week. A soft surface under the feet

offers a textural contrast against the kilometers of pedestrian sidewalks across the city,” says Asif Khan.

The architect imagined the pavilion as a clearing in a **forest**, of which the courtyard of Palazzo Litta becomes a counterpart: **an orderly environment created by men**. The installation of Asif Khan is **a reflection on the past, on the present and on the future**. Next to the world of the forest and the architectural order defined by man, the future takes shape, represented by the clearings created in space. Hence the overall redness of the installation: the color of the new world with which contemporary man is more and more familiar: **the red planet, Mars**.

The exhibition continues onto Palazzo Litta’s piano nobile and into the Clock Tower Courtyard, featuring a diverse selection of designers and brands from the international landscape.

The Swiss cultural foundation **Pro Helvetia** presents **SWISS ♥ DESIGN** in the courtyard with a works by young and innovative studios whose style represents Swiss design, characterized by quality, functionality and innovation: **Diis Designstudio, Florian Hauswirth, Kollektiv vier, Alain Schibli, schoenstaub and Egli Studio**.

Design is Eros is the name of the design workshop currently being at Scuola del design of **Politecnico di Milano** inside the didactic experiments of Scuola di Piazza Bausan. This exhibition presents the preliminary videos made by students of the Interior Design Workshop, held by the teachers **Michele De Lucchi, Francesca Balena Arista** and **Mario Greco** under the supervision of Marta Elisa Cecchi, Marco De Santi e Giuseppe Arezzi. The theme is Eros with the meaning of seduction, attraction and gravitation pull. Exhibition partners: Eletech. Poltronova e Sygns.

Jan Kath throws strict design rules overboard while combining classic elements from oriental carpets with contemporary, minimalist design. At Palazzo Litta the german designer presents his latest abstracts of the collections **Polonaise, Erased Heritage and Artwork**: made of hand-combed and hand-spun Tibetan highland wool, Chinese silk, and stinging-nettle fibers and produced in a traditional manufacturing process, woven by hand.

The artisan tradition of the different Japan areas meets the research of international designers in the selection of **Japan Creative**, promoting the values of monozukuri internationally, a philosophy that combines Japanese aesthetics and technologies. On view are the **HATO** and **KYU** projects by the duo **GamFratesi**, **ABCD** by the London designer **Faye Toogood** and **HOLLOW COOKING KNIFE** by Swiss studio **BIG GAME**.

Foscarini, Italian company of reference on the international design scene in the field of lighting, presents a show dedicated to projects by second-year students specializing in the Master in Product Design at **ECAL, University of Art and Design Lausanne**. The students have worked on new lamp ideas developed around the concept of portable light and mobility, imagining how

light can accompany our movements through space. The exhibition presents nine different projects, resulting of the work of nine young creatives.

Open Future installation is a collaboration with AANT, Accademia delle Arti e Nuove Tecnologie di Roma. The tour will take visitors through various rooms in different styles, each one featuring the iconic models of **Valli & Valli** handles, from those that have made its history to the most recent. The tour ends with a mysterious room, a suspended place that sums up the sense of the whole journey and complements what is intended to be a real artistic installation focused on the concepts of the future.

Hus & Dimora's debut collection, an idea by the Italian-Brazilian designer Leo Di Caprio and Norwegian designer **Petter Leiros**. The **Aka** side tables are tailored to follow a very simple and practical manufacturing process, based on simple geometry. The three tables display a pure geometric shape, triangles and rectangles, as its structure, which is made with two parallel metal bars folded to form the shape and support the top.

Hus & Dimora is a new Norwegian design brand, born out of an idea of the Italian-Brazilian designer **Leo Di Caprio** and Norwegian designer **Petter Leiros**. Scandinavian design with a touch and feel from different parts of the world, it brings products by designers from different parts of the world, envisioned to be practical, simple and useful at home and locally produced – the first collection entirely in Italy – revealing a key essence of the brand: sustainability. The collection presented is composed of four products: **Aka** side tables and **Hug** chair, by **Leonardo Di Caprio**; **Gemelli** light by **Gustavo Martini**; and **Arizona** container/cachepot, by **Nicoló Friedman**.

In **Another Nordic – Between art and design** Danish design brand **Karakter**, specialized in the production of furniture, design objects, lighting and gallery pieces, showcase extraordinary personalities, featuring designers who have taken part in formulating the history of design, and those who aspire to shape its future. Sixty years of creativity – narrated by **Paul McCobb** and **Bodil Kjær**, **Achille** and **Pier Giacomo Castiglioni**, **Joe Colombo**, **Angelo Mangiarotti**, **Aldo Bakker**, **PlueerSmitt** and others. A focus is dedicated to the architect and designer **Bodil Kjær** and to her **Elements of Architecture**. Karakter and five other manufacturers will display Bodil Kjær reintroductions in the Yellow Room.

Digit Art Light Regular in Mirrored Sky Blue and White Lattimo by **Emmanuel Babled** is composed of 23 spheres of Murano's hand-blown glass. With the highest level of accuracy the elements barely gaze one another highlighting the harmony and solidity of the whole. The white spheres diffuse a soft light reflected by the coloured elements.

At Palazzo Litta, the brand **Ichendorf**, showcasing the work of the designers **Studio Klass**, **Federico Angi**, **Maddalena Casadei**, **Pietro Russo** and **Mist-o** will present a personal link between crafts and industry. The union between them will generate glass objects, that will go

from borosilicated glass, to crystal glass and bubbled glass, producing a sense of serendipity beside the industrial production.

Heritage is a story that is as sensory as it is emotional; a tale that spans more than a century of history of the textiles and wallpaper brand **Limonta**. To interpret its spirit, designer **Vito Nesta**'s scenographic installation calls upon the viewer interact with the flashy tassels that protrude from the rolls of wallpaper, suggestive of the forms of a merry-go-round; antique books collect detailed tempera paintings of textures and patterns. The guests will have the hunch to interact with the scenography throwing, touching and observing the wallpaper.

Kristiina Lassus and **NAAMANKA** in the exhibition **Together: Rugs and Chairs** present new designs for the Kristiina Lassus artisan rugs and Samuli Naamanka chairs collection. Ancient traditions rest at the collection's heart with Tibetan wools and Chinese silks painstakingly hand-knotted by craftspeople in Nepal. The **Clash** chair collection has found international success with its innovative production methods and original design language. Without any visible screws or welded joints, the base and seat are assembled by 'clashing' them together, hence the name.

A space designed to convey calm and elegance. That's the concept beyond the installation conceived by **Jader Almeida**, **Sollos'** art director and main designer, for Palazzo Litta. **Good news from Brasil** invites to a full immersion into brazilian brand: displayed on a platform, iconic pieces, new release and award. The journey continues in a second room, a lounge area where Sollos' products come apart to become artworks.

Leaving Room is **NABA** Nuova Accademia di Belle Arti project, curated by **Dante Donegani**, **Valerio Sommella** and **Tianshu Shi**, Scientific Advisor **Italo Rota**. **NABA** presents a prototype that investigates the potential offered by self driving allowing a slow use of what was once defined as the road: the city slows down and in return offers fluidity, sustainability and the ability to use travel time in a useful and pleasant way. **Leaving Room** is a project powered by **Repower**.

Le Sfere is the collection presented by **Astep**. Is the latest addition to the capsule collection **Flos with Sarfatti**, created in collaboration with **FLOS**. The collection is a tribute to **Gino Sarfatti** and a homage to his carrier: the 600 fixtures deesigned between 1939 and 1973 with a constant dedication to research and innovation, introducing new typologies, functions and light sources, from the fluorescent tubes to the first halogens.

In the majestic Sala degli Specchi, the brand **Nude** presents the collections designed in collaboration with established and emerging design talent, like the famous **Ron Arad**. The israeli architect and industrial designer designs for **Nude** the collection **Concentrics**; **Sebastian Herkner** will display **Ecrin**, a group of containers with vibrantly coloured lids inspired by the round stones of the Pyramids of Ritten. **Nude** will exhibit the mixology collections designed by **Brad Ascalon** e **Youmeus**.

Samotraccia is the motorcycle designed by **Mario Trimarchi** for **De Castelli**, a reflection on the aesthetics of movement. The design follows the forms of the body on the bike, giving the object a sense of the thrilling physical and mental tension of riding at high speeds. Over time, with the natural oxidation of the copper, the object is aligned with the time of the city, experienced in an eternally contemporary condition.

Studio LoHo was founded in 2017 and introduces its first collection named **Kind of Oj** during the Milano Design Week 2018. **Liquid Shape** is the project name of this young brand where the clay bathtubs ought to bring color in interiors that traditionally are dominated by one-sided colors.

Manerba, the all-female company founded in Mantua in 1969, presents **Flowered Offices**, its personal, feminine, colorful vision of the office with an original exhibition curated by **Raffaella Mangiarotti** and **Ilkka Suppanen**. The products presented are: **Apollo**, green and sound-absorbing operating system, designed by **Shane Schneck**, **Undecided** upholstered collection and the collection of **Litta** tables and desks, both designed by **Raffaella Mangiarotti** and **Ilkka Suppanen**.

Il progetto di Asif Khan **Tempietto nel Bosco** è stato reso possibile da **Living Divani**, **Van Den Weghe** e **Eterno Ivica**. *"We are very grateful for the collaboration with Living Divani and the work of its master weavers. And thanks also to Artemide for its expressive lighting, which reveals the clearing in our forest...At the centre visitors will discover a circular white marble surface by Van Den Weghe, marking a central clearing for talks, and seating at the periphery also from marble, with both embedded in the ground – a motif borrowed from the timber parquet within the Palazzo. All this is supported beneath by a clever raised flooring system by Eterno Ivica"* says Asif Khan.

For over six decades, the Italian brand **Eterno Ivica** has been working in the building sector to produce accessories and components for private and industrial buildings, and many other architectural sectors. For the fourth consecutive year, Eterno Ivica provides the fixed and adjustable supports for the elevated structure of the pavilion's platform.

From the purchase of quarried stone slabs to the final finishing touches, Belgian natural stone company **Van Den Weghe** is internationally renowned for its high-end products. For Asif Khan's courtyard installation, Van Den Weghe contributes a circular white marble surface that marks a central clearing for the Litta talks. The seating at the periphery is also cut from marble. Both embedded in the ground, the ensemble gives the temporary construction a sense of permanence.

Italian lighting company **Artemide** provides Asif Khan's pavilion with expressive lighting, which reveals the clearing in the forest. Founded in 1960, today Artemide is one of the global leaders of the residential illumination and high-end contract sectors, and one of Palazzo Litta's faithful



technical sponsors. Artemide's approach to human and responsible light goes hand-in-hand with design and material savoir faire, combining next-generation technology with ancient wisdoms.

Long-term Palazzo Litta partner **Living Divani** is the hand behind the hammocks spanning between the columns of the *Tempietto nel Bosco* pavilion. Especially created for the occasion, the different hammocks are characterised by a hand-made woven frame in tubular, a material that turns from a decorative element to a structural one. Thus the Italian family-owned company specialised in developing products that express a flexible and practical way of relaxing, enables visitors to take the weight off their tired feet and relax at Palazzo Litta.

In the Cortile d'Onore the visitors will be able to take a rest to the *il Viaggiator Goloso* and *Grandi Vigne Bistrot*, a place to taste the proposal of **il Viaggiator Goloso e Grandi Vigne**, the two exclusive brands of **Gruppo Finiper**, partner food & beverage and representatives of the *Italian way of food and wine*.

THE LITTA VARIATIONS/4th MOVEMENT

April 17 - 22, 2018

Palazzo Litta

Corso Magenta 24, Milan

Press Preview: Monday April 16, 2018. 1pm-7pm.

Opening Party: Tuesday April 17, 2018. 7pm | by invitation

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