

Biographies



Salone del Mobile.Milano

Special Projects

Villa Héritage

Pierre-Yves Rochon

Founder and Global Design Director, PYR

For over 40 years, Pierre-Yves Rochon has been a global leader in luxury interior design. Founded in Paris in 1979, his studio, PYR, transforms prestigious hotels, restaurants, and private residences into timeless symbols of elegance. Iconic projects include the Four Seasons George V, the Dorchester in London, the Danielli in Venice and the Waldorf Astoria in New York. Renowned for blending heritage with modernity, Rochon redefines luxury living with meticulously crafted interiors. In 2016, the PYR Paris and Chicago studios joined Perkins&Will, enhancing its innovative and sustainable approach. Known for attention to detail, respect for craftsmanship, and commitment to excellence, Pierre-Yves Rochon continues to shape the future of luxury design, delivering unparalleled elegance and refinement worldwide.

Michael G. Jennings

Pianist

Music has always been an essential element for Michael G. Jennings, evolving from a constant presence into a source of dedication and research: a way of life. A multifaceted figure, he holds both a Diploma in Piano and a Degree in Philosophy. The connections between these disciplines led him to earn a doctoral scholarship at the Milan Conservatory and continue to shape his interpretative approach. He further refines his artistic skills under the guidance of two distinguished pianists, M^o F. Colli and M^o A. Deljavan. In addition to his concert activity in Italy and across Europe, since 2022 he has been actively engaged in an intense recording career, resulting in the release of five albums, including J.S. Bach's Goldberg Variations. Furthermore, he collaborates with the PianoLink Association as an Orchestra Inspector and Board Member. A passionate educator, he is dedicated to sharing his care for and love of beauty.

Anne Lovett

Pianist and Composer

Anne Lovett is a pianist and composer with a rare gift: the ability to blend raw emotion, technical brilliance, and genre-bending creativity into something completely her own. Originally from Normandy, France, she grew up surrounded by music—her dad was a luthier, her mum a dancer—and started playing piano at just three years old. Her journey has taken her from the Conservatoire Supérieur de Paris to the Royal Academy of Music in London, and then King's College, where she honed her skills in composition. Along the way, she studied with some of the biggest names in classical music and developed a style that defies easy categorization. Anne's performances are anything but traditional. Mixing classical repertoire with her own works and bold reinterpretations of film music, she creates concerts that feel more like immersive experiences. Critics and audiences alike have praised her for her crystalline tone, emotional depth, and the sheer power of her playing. Her concerts are often described as exhilarating—something between a classical recital and a rock show. She's performed all over Europe, Brazil, and Asia, and appeared at top venues in London like Cadogan Hall and Hackney Empire. Her music has been featured on BBC One, Radio 3, France Musique, ABC Classic FM, and more. She's also signed to Faber Music, sharing the roster with legends like Dame Evelyn Glennie and Jonny Greenwood. Anne's latest album, *The Eleventh Hour*, has surpassed a million streams and was even chosen for a Burberry campaign. In short? Anne Lovett is not just playing music, she's reshaping how we experience it.

La dolce attesa

Paolo Sorrentino

Oscar Winner Filmmaker

The film director and screenwriter Paolo Sorrentino was born in Naples in 1970. His first feature film, *One Man Up*, was screened at the Venice Film Festival in 2001. He made *The Consequences of Love* in 2004, and *The Family Friend* in 2006, both of which competed at the Cannes Film Festival. He was back at Cannes in 2008 with *Il Divo*, which won the Prix du Jury. He again competed at Cannes in 2011 with *This Must be the Place*, followed two years later by *The Great Beauty*, which won him an Oscar, a Golden Globe, a Bafta for Best Foreign Film and three EFAs. He won at Cannes yet again in 2016 with *Youth*, which netted three EFAs, an Oscar nomination and two Golden Globe nominations. He created the TV series *The Young Pope* in 2016, which was nominated for a Golden Globe Best Actor Award and Emmy Awards for scenography and photography. He wrote the screenplay for *Loro*, starring Toni Servillo, in 2018. In 2019 he shot his second series set in the Vatican, *The New Pope*, starring Jude Law and John Malkovich. In 2021 he wrote and directed the film *The Hand of God*, nominated for a Best Foreign Film at the 2022 Oscars, which won the Silver Lion Grand Jury Prize and the Marcello Mastroianni Award at the 78th edition of the Venice International Film Festival, and also netted 5 David di Donatello 2022 Awards, including Best Film and Best Director and four 2022 Silver Ribbons, including Best Film. In 2024 he wrote and directed *Parthenope*, presented in competition at Cannes and winner of the Golden Ticket for one of the most viewed films of the year.

Margherita Palli

Scenographer

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Max Casacci

Musician and Producer

Max Casacci has been active in the underground world of post-punk and new wave since the '80s, playing in the bands Deafear and Carmody. He set up a small recording studio in his father's film

dubbing studio that later became known as Casasonica, which was to become the point of reference for independent music in Turin in the '90s. He then joined Africa Unite as a guitarist, co-author and co-producer, playing all over the world. He subsequently became the guitarist, co-author of music and lyrics and producer of Subsonica. In the 2000s, Subsonica became one of the most influential bands on the Italian scene. During this time, he also worked for artistes such as Mina, Eugenio Finardi and Antonella Ruggiero. He then accepted the position of director of the Traffic Torino Free Festival. In 2011, as part of the Venice Art Biennale, he created Glasstress, a sound work using the sounds of glass. In 2012 he joined the music for science collective Deproducers, along with Vittorio Cosma, Gianni Maroccolo and Riccardo Sinigaglia. He composed the soundtrack for Mimmo Calopresti's film One for All and, together with Emanuele Cisi and Daniele Mana, he produced The City, an album in which the noises of the city of Turin become the rhythm supporting the instruments of jazz musicians such as Enrico Rava, Gianluca Petrella, Furio Di Castri, Flavio Boltro. At the request of Michelangelo Pistoletto, he created Watermemories (2019), a work made with the sounds of the river Biella. In 2020 he released Earthphonia (Sugar/Universal), a solo album made with the sounds of nature and its ecosystems in which Stefano Mancuso, Michelangelo Pistoletto and Mario Tozzi took part, amongst others. In 2021 he wrote the soundtrack for The Girl in the Fountain, a documentary film about the life of Anita Ekberg by Antongiulio Panizzi. He was the mix engineer for the albums Persona and Scacco Matto by Lorenzo Senni, published by Warp, and is the artistic director of Fotofonia, the music section of the Fotografia Europea festival (Reggio Emilia). In 2022, Urban Groovescaples (Earthphonia II) was released by 42 Records/35 mm, his second album made using the sounds of urban space. During the same period, the Earthphonia live project was chosen for international events by brands such as Shanghai Tang, Xerjoff, Molteni, and the Teoresi Group. In 2024, with Subsonica, he won the David di Donatello Award for Best Soundtrack for the film Adagio by Stefano Sollima.

Library of Light

Es Devlin

Artist and Designer

British contemporary artist and designer Es Devlin views an audience as a temporary society and invites public participation in communal choral works. Her canvas ranges from public sculptures and installations at the V&A, Serpentine, Somerset House and Imperial War Museum, and outside at Tate Modern, Trafalgar Square and the Lincoln Centre, to kinetic stage designs at the Royal Opera House, the National Theatre, Teatro alla Scala and the Metropolitan Opera, as well as Olympic Ceremonies, Super-Bowl half-time shows, and monumental illuminated stage sculptures for large scale stadium concerts. She made drawings of 250 endangered London species in support of the London Wildlife Trust, 50 portraits in support of UK for UNHCR (the United Nations High Commission for Refugees) and a pavilion at the United Nations Headquarters in New York drawing attention to the United Nations Global Goals, while her 'Nevada Ark' video installation highlighted Nevadian endangered species at U2's inauguration of the Sphere, Las Vegas. She is the subject of a monographic book, An Atlas of Es Devlin, and a retrospective exhibition at the Cooper Hewitt Smithsonian Design Museum in New York. Devlin was the first female designer of the UK Pavilion at Expo 2020, creating a pavilion that used AI to generate a collective poem across its 20 metre diameter timber facade. She has been awarded the Eugene McDermott Award for the Arts at MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) as well as The London Design Medal, three Olivier Awards, a Tony Award, an Ivor Novello Award and a CBE. She is a fellow of the Royal Academy of Music and the University of the Arts London, and Visiting Professor of Contemporary Theatre at the University of Oxford.

Mother

Robert Wilson

Artist

Born in Waco, Texas, Wilson is one of the world's leading theatre and visual artists. His works unconventionally integrate a wide variety of artistic media, including dance, movement, light, sculpture, music and text. His images are aesthetically striking and emotionally charged, and his productions have earned worldwide public and critical acclaim. After studying at the University of Texas and the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, Wilson set up The Byrd Hoffman School of Byrds community in New York in the mid-1960s with which he produced his early works, including *Deafman Glance* (1970) and *A Letter for Queen Victoria* (1974-1975). He co-created the opera *Einstein on the Beach* (1976) with Philip Glass. Wilson's artistic collaborators include many writers and musicians such as Heiner Müller, Tom Waits, Susan Sontag, Laurie Anderson, William Burroughs, Lou Reed, Jessye Norman and Anna Calvi. He has also left his mark on masterpieces such as Beckett's *Krapp's Last Tape*, Brecht/Weil's *Threepenny Opera*, Debussy's *Pelléas et Melisande*, Goethe's *Faust*, Homer's *Odyssey*, Jean de la Fontaine's *Fables*, Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*, Verdi's *La Traviata* and Sophocles' *Oedipus*. Wilson's drawings, paintings and sculptures have been exhibited all over the world in hundreds of solo and group shows, and his work is held in private collections and museums the world over. He has also been the recipient of numerous awards for excellence, including a Pulitzer Prize nomination, two Ubu Awards, the Venice Biennale Golden Lion award, and the Olivier Award. Wilson has been made a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, as well as the German Academy of Arts, and has been awarded eight honorary degrees. France named him a Commander of the Order of Arts and Letters (2003) and an Officer of the Legion of Honour (2014); Germany awarded him the Cross of the Order of Merit (2014).

Arvo Pärt

Composer

Arvo Pärt born on 11th September 1935 in Paide, Estonia, is one of the world's composers whose creative oeuvre has significantly changed the way we understand the nature of music. In 1976 Pärt came up with a new and highly original musical language that he called tintinnabuli (tintinnabulum is Latin for 'little bell'), which reached a wide audience of different listeners and has defined his work to this day. There is no school of composition that follows Pärt, nor does he teach; however, much of contemporary music has been influenced by his tintinnabuli compositions. After studying in Heino Eller's composition class at the Tallinn State Conservatory, he worked as a sound engineer for Estonian Radio. Since the late 1960s, Pärt has been an independent composer. Both the avant-garde spirit of Pärt's early works and the sacred aspect of the music he composed in the 1970s sparked controversial reviews and clashes with Soviet officials. Arvo Pärt and his family were forced to emigrate in 1980, first to Vienna and then to Berlin, where they remained for almost 30 years. Since then, his music has been performed and recorded by the top orchestras and performers of our time. Pärt returned to Estonia in 2010, where he now lives. The search for his own musical voice triggered a creative crisis that endured for eight years. During this period, he joined the Orthodox Church and studied Gregorian chant, the School of Notre Dame and classical vocal polyphony. His first tintinnabuli piece, *Für Alina*, for piano (1976), was soon followed by works such as *Cantus in Memory Benjamin Britten* (1977), *Fratres* (1977), *Tabula Rasa* (1977) and *Spiegel im Spiegel* (1978). Robert Wilson and Arvo Pärt collaborated on the opera *Adam's Passion* performed in Tallinn in 2015, in Berlin in 2018 and at the Teatro dell'Opera in Rome in 2023.

La Risonanza

Orchestra

La Risonanza is one of the most internationally successful Italian orchestras performing on period instruments. In its extensive discography, one of the most important achievements has been the first

complete recording of Handel's Italian cantatas with period instruments. For this project, it received various awards and numerous mentions, including a Gramophone Award. This complete edition is now followed by a new project involving the recording of some of the most significant instrumental works by Johann Sebastian Bach. Regularly invited to perform at the most important concert seasons and major festivals in Italy and abroad, La Risonanza and its conductor Fabio Bonizzoni are in permanent artistic residency at the Festival de Saint-Michel en Thiérache in France. Since 2016, the ensemble has organized its own concert season in Milan, La Risonanza per Milano, the only Milanese series entirely dedicated to Baroque repertoire, presented at the Museo Nazionale Scienza e Tecnologia Leonardo da Vinci and other venues in Milan. Alongside its ongoing research into 17th- and 18th-century repertoire, La Risonanza regularly explores both contemporary repertoire and performances that intersect various forms of art. Examples include *Voglio la luna* and *Didone e Enea* (Baroque music and contemporary dance), and *Stabat Mater*, a program that paired the homonymous compositions by Alessandro Scarlatti, Vivaldi, and Arvo Pärt.

Vox Clamantis

Ensemble

Founded in 1996 and directed by Jaan-Eick Tulve, the ensemble Vox Clamantis includes a variety of musicians, singers, composers, instrumentalists, and conductors, all sharing a common interest in Gregorian chant, considered the foundation of all European music. Vox Clamantis also performs ancient polyphony and contemporary music. Many Estonian composers, including Arvo Pärt, Helena Tulve, Erkki-Sven Tüür, Tõnis Kaumann, and Sven Grünberg, have written compositions for Vox Clamantis. Vox Clamantis has recorded for ECM Records and Mirare. The CD Liszt - *Via crucis* won the Diapason d'Or award in 2013, while the CD Arvo Pärt - *Adam's Lament* (conducted by Tõnu Kaljuste) won the GRAMMY Award for Best Choral Performance in 2014. Recently, the famous medieval composition *Beata Viscera* by Perrotin was included in the soundtrack of the film *La Grande Bellezza*, which won the Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film in 2014. The CD Arvo Pärt. *The Deer's Cry* (ECM) won the Diapason d'Or Award, the Chock Award from the French magazine *Classica*, the Album of the Year award in Estonia, and was nominated for the BBC Music Magazine Award and the Denmark Classical Radio Award in 2018. Their latest CD, *The Suspended Harp of Babel* (ECM), won the award for Best Choral Album in Estonia and was chosen by BBC Music Magazine as one of the best classical albums released in 2020. In 2017, Vox Clamantis received the National Culture Prize of the Republic of Estonia.

Eesti Kontsert

Estonian Concert Institution

Eesti Kontsert, a state concert institution, is the leading concert and festival organizer in Estonia, presenting annually about 1300 various musical events in Estonia and abroad. The musical scope of Eesti Kontsert encompasses symphonic and chamber music, jazz, choral music, contemporary music incl commissions of new works, and concerts in schools and for children. Among the ranks of Eesti Kontsert there are two internationally renowned groups: Estonian National Male Choir and the early music consort Hortus Musicus. Every year Eesti Kontsert organizes many international music festivals such as Pianists Festival KLAVER, Saaremaa Opera Festival, Pärnu Opera Days, MustonenFest, Music of Seven Cities, Haapsalu White Nights Festival, Festival O/Pa- dise, Jõhvi Ballet Festival, In Horto Regis, Tallinn A Cappella, Festival TUBIN. Eesti Kontsert manages the principal modern concert halls in Estonia – in Tallinn, Tartu, Pärnu and Jõhvi. Additionally, Eesti Kontsert holds concerts all over Estonia - in chamber halls, churches, schools, outdoors, offering concert series for rural municipalities, local institutions and concert arrangers across the country.

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The Euroluce International Lighting Forum Light for Life. Light for Spaces

Susanna Antico

Architect, Lighting Designer

Susanna Antico, IALD, has a degree in architecture. She was the founder of the architectural lighting consultancy Susanna Antico Lighting Design Studio, active in Milan, Italy, from 1995 to 2023. Antico's research, teaching, and practice focus on creating a sustainable nighttime identity for the urban environment. She has developed lighting master plans and many urban lighting projects, recognized by awards and numerous professional publications in Italy and abroad. From 2015 to 2020, she taught the Urban Lighting module of the Master Lighting Design & LED Technology at the Politecnico di Milano and was a visiting professor at the Interior Design Department of the School of Arts of Ghent, Belgium. First at ELDA, then at PLDA, APIL and IALD, she has always been passionate and active in promoting and supporting the establishment of the profession of independent architectural lighting design. In 2024, together with Samuel Vespo, she founded LOOMIT srl.

Nicholas Belfield

Partner dpa lighting consultants

Nicholas Belfield has been in the lighting industry for 27 years and joined dpa lighting consultants in 2006. Working extensively on prestigious projects worldwide and nationally, Belfield has been an integral part of the practice's growth and development over the past two decades, recently taking on the role of partner in the London studio. dpa has completed over 7,500 projects in 80 countries over 67 years – an achievement which has been rewarded with many national, European and international awards. As lighting consultants, they are involved in and challenged by a wide variety of projects covering the spectrum of architectural and interior design vernaculars, from historic to cutting edge modern.

Piero Benvenuti

Professor Emeritus of Astrophysics, University of Padua

Piero Benvenuti is Professor Emeritus of Astrophysics at the University of Padua and was recently appointed Director of the International Astronomical Union Centre for the Protection of Dark and Quiet Skies from Interference by Satellite Constellations (CPS). He carried out part of his activity for the European Space Agency (ESA) as manager of the astronomical satellite International Ultraviolet Explorer and the Hubble Space Telescope. He was President of the National Institute for Astrophysics (INAF) and Commissioner of the Italian Space Agency (ASI). He was Secretary General of the International Astronomical Union for the three years 2015-18 and, *ad interim*, in 2024. He is interested in the relationship between science and theology and was a consultant for the Pontifical Council for Culture for the decade 2013-23.

Adrien de Lassence

Associate Director Sou Fujimoto Atelier Paris

After studying in France and USA, Adrien de Lassence graduated from ENSA-Clermont-Ferrand, Architecture University in 2009. He worked in Vancouver, Canada, and set up in Paris in 2011. Having registered with the French Board of Architects, in 2018 he joined Sou Fujimoto Architects in Paris to help the newly established office in France. De Lassence's first project at Sou Fujimoto Architects was "Milles Arbres - A Thousand Trees, on the west side of Paris beyond the ring boulevard, which won the 1st prize among the 23 sites included in the French competition Réinventer.Paris. He managed a team of 10 architects for this large-scale, mixed-use project spanning over 55,000 sqm, including offices, a hotel, housing, a food court, a kindergarten, and two floating parks. In 2019, while managing a variety of projects and competitions in parallel, De Lassence took over the construction of the Shared Learning

Centre at Polytechnic University on the Paris-Saclay Campus. In early 2020 he became Project Director, and in 2022 Associate Director for the Paris office; in addition, he is entrusted with business development activities for the firm in France and Europe, part of the Middle East, South America, and the east coast of the United States. His longstanding collaboration with Sou Fujimoto now allows him to foster sustainable and innovative architecture, maintaining a strong connection to nature and always keeping the final user at the heart of each project.

Hervé Descottes

Lighting Designer, Founder L'Observatoire International

In 1993, Hervé Descottes founded the lighting design and consulting firm L'Observatoire International in New York, after eight years of design practice in Paris, France. He personally creates the lighting concepts for all projects designed by L'Observatoire International and oversees project development through project completion. Descottes has been recognized numerous times by the lighting design and architectural community. He has received awards from the International Association of Lighting Designers, the Illuminating Engineering Society and the New York City Illuminating Engineering Society, the American Institute of Architects, the American Society of Landscape Architects, D&AD, the Municipal Art Society of New York City, and the GE Corporation. In 2008, Descottes was named Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters by the French Minister of Culture.

Maríel Fuentes

Lighting Designer, Co-Founder MMAS Lighting

Maríel Fuentes completed her studies in Architecture in 1998 at the University of Chile, and later earned a Master's degree in Interior Design from the University of Salamanca in Spain. She specializes in architectural lighting design. After working for 10 years in other studios, she began her independent professional career in 2016, subsequently co-founding MMAS Lighting with Michela Mezzavilla. Based in Barcelona, this multicultural lighting design studio primarily focuses on architectural lighting design. Currently, Fuentes serves as a member of IALD (International Association of Lighting Designers) and held the position of President of the Professional Association of Lighting Designers in Spain (APDI) from 2021 to 2024. She combines her work as a designer and director of MMAS Lighting with teaching. She is a professor in the Lighting Design Master's programs at the UPC-Polytechnic University of Catalonia, BAU-University Design Center of Barcelona, and IED Barcelona-Higher School of Design. She has extensive local and international experience, working on projects in hospitality, restaurants, retail, artistic exhibitions, and residential spaces, among other typologies, always collaborating with multidisciplinary teams. Her work has been recognized with awards such as the IALD Awards, Lamp Awards, and the Illuminet Biennial.

Lonneke Gordijn

Artist, Co-Founder DRIFT

Dutch artists Lonneke Gordijn (1980) and Ralph Nauta (1978) founded DRIFT in 2007. With a multidisciplinary team of artists, engineers and programmers, they work on experiential sculptures, installations and performances. DRIFT manifests the phenomena and hidden properties of nature with the use of technology in order to learn from the Earth's underlying mechanisms and to re-establish our connection to it. With both depth and simplicity, DRIFT's works of art illuminate parallels between manmade and natural structures through deconstructive, interactive, and innovative processes. The artists raise fundamental questions about what life is and explore a positive scenario for the future. All individual artworks have the ability to transform spaces. The confined parameters of a museum or a gallery does not always do justice to a body of work, rather it often comes to its potential in the public sphere or through architecture. DRIFT brings people, space and nature on to the same frequency, uniting audiences with experiences that inspire a reconnection to our planet. DRIFT has realised numerous exhibitions and (public) projects around the world. Their work has been exhibited at The Shed

NYC (2021); Stedelijk Museum (2018); Art Basel (2017, 2021) Victoria & Albert Museum (2009, 2015); UTA Artist Space (2019); Garage Museum (2019); Mint Museum (2019); Biennale di Venezia (2015); Pace Gallery (2017); Burning Man (2018, 2021) amongst others. Their work is held in the permanent collections of the LACMA; Rijksmuseum; SMOMA; Stedelijk Museum; Rockefeller Center, Dallas Museum of Art, and Victoria & Albert Museum. DRIFT was awarded Dezeen designer of the year (2019) the Arte Laguna Prize, Venice (2014).

Timothy Ingold

Emeritus Professor of Social Anthropology, University of Aberdeen

Timothy Ingold is Professor Emeritus of Social Anthropology at the University of Aberdeen. He has carried out fieldwork among Saami and Finnish people in Lapland, and has written on environment, technology, and social organization in the circumpolar North, on animals in human society, and on human ecology and evolutionary theory. His more recent work explores environmental perception and skilled practice. Ingold's current interests lie on the interface between anthropology, archaeology, art, and architecture. His books include *The Perception of the Environment* (2000), *Lines* (2007), *Being Alive* (2011), *Making* (2013), *The Life of Lines* (2015), *Anthropology and/as Education* (2018), *Anthropology: Why it Matters* (2018), *Correspondences* (2020), *Imagining for Real* (2022) and *The Rise and Fall of Generation Now* (2024). Ingold is a Fellow of the British Academy and of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. In 2022 he was made a CBE for services to anthropology.

Shelley James

Lighting Strategy Consultant, Director Age of Light Innovations

Dr Shelley James is an international expert on light and well-being, blending her roles as lighting design consultant and curator, TEDx and keynote speaker, author, and elected member of the WELL Light Advisory Team. Dr Shelley is also a visiting lecturer at both RCA and UCL. Dr James has made significant contributions to the field, including a TEDx talk that was one of the top three most-watched worldwide in the month following the launch and a social media campaign reaching over 2.5 million adolescents worldwide. Her expertise is sought by diverse clients, from healthcare providers and financial institutions to architects and lighting regulators. As a trained electrician and glass artist, she combines technical knowledge with creative insight. Dr James' work, featured on the BBC series "Innovations that Changed the World", reflects her commitment to improving health, happiness, and sustainability through the power of light.

Stefano Mancuso

Neurobiologist of plants, Director of the International Laboratory of Plant Neurobiology, University of Florence

A scientist and public intellectual, Stefano Mancuso is among the world's leading authorities engaged in researching and communicating new discoveries about plants: as intelligent and sensitive creatures capable of choosing, learning, and remembering. A professor at the University of Florence and a full professor at the Georgofili Academy, he directs the International Laboratory of Plant Neurobiology, with offices in Florence, Kitakyushu, Bonn and Paris. Mancuso was the first Italian scientist to be invited in 2010 as a speaker at a TED Global held in Oxford. His talk was viewed more than 1.4 million times on the TED website alone. In 2014 he founded PNAT, a start-up at the University of Florence to create plant-inspired technology. In 2016 he won the Austrian Ministry of Science and Technology's "Wissenschaftsbuck des Jahres" award for the best science paper of the year. As a writer, he made his debut in 2013 by publishing the award-winning best-seller *Verde brillante* [Brilliant Green] with Giunti. In 2018, his book *Plant Revolution* won the 2018 Galileo Prize, the most prestigious prize for scientific non-fiction. This was followed with *Laterza by L'incredibile viaggio delle piante* [The Incredible Journeys of Plants] (2018), *La Nazione delle Piante* [A Nation of Plants] (2019) winner of the Capalbio Prize and the Earth Prize, and *La pianta del mondo* [A Plant of the World] (2021) winner of the Pozzale Luigi Russo

Prize. In 2022 he published with Einaudi *La tribù degli alberi* [The Tribe of Trees], his first book of fiction. His books are translated into 27 languages. In 2022, he was awarded the Fiorino d'Oro, the highest award of the City of Florence, and was appointed scientific director of the newly formed Foundation for the Future of Cities.

Kaoru Mende

Lighting Designer

Kaoru Mende was born in Tokyo in 1950, earned a bachelors and masters degree from Tokyo University of Art in the field of industrial and environmental design. In 1990, he founded Lighting Planners Associates Inc. The scope of his design and planning activities ranges widely from residential and architectural to urban and environmental lighting design. Mende is also the acting chief of the "Lighting Detectives", a citizens' group that specializes in the study of the culture of lighting. Mende has been involved in such superb projects as Tokyo International Forum, JR Kyoto Station, Sendai Mediatheque, Roppongi Hills, Nagasaki National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims, Kyoto State Guest House, National Museum of Singapore, Singapore City Center Lighting Master Plan, Alila Villas Uluwatu, Gardens by the Bay, Tokyo Station, Aman Tokyo, and Gifu Media Cosmos. Awards Mende has received include the Illuminating Engineering Society of North America (IES) Award of Distinction, International Association of Lighting Designers (IALD) Radiance Award, Japan Culture Design Award, Mainichi Design Award, President's Design Award in Singapore and others. Mende is a visiting professor at Musashino Art University and a part-time lecturer Tokyo University of Art. Mende is a member of the following associations, Architectural Institute of Japan (IAJ), Illuminating Engineering Society of North America (IES), International Association of Lighting Designers (IALD), and Japan Design Committee (JDC). Books Mende has authored include, "Transnational Lighting Detectives" (Kajima Publishing), "LIGHTING DESIGN for Urban Environments and Architecture" (Rikuyosya), "Designing with Shadow" (Rikuyosya), "The Light Seminar" (Kajima Publishing), "A Manner in Architectural Lighting Design" (TOTO Publishing), "LPA 1990-2015, Tide of Architectural Lighting Design" (Rikuyosha), and many other.

Elisa Orlanski Ours

Chief Planning, Design Officer Corcoran Sunshine Marketing Group

Elisa Orlanski Ours is a designer, educator, and industry leader, currently serving as chief planning & design officer at Corcoran Sunshine Marketing Group. She founded the firm's Planning & Design department 20 years ago and consults on design and space planning for projects from South Korea to Argentina, from the United States to the Caribbean. Her portfolio ranges from master plans and hotel-branded developments to individual villas, with New York City highlights including 220 Central Park South, 56 Leonard, Hudson Yards, and One High Line. Through her work, she has consulted with developers and shaped the architectural landscape of the city through collaborations with architects and designers including RAMSA, BIG Architects, Charles & Co, Gabellini Sheppard, Pembroke & Ives, Selldorf Partners, KPF, SOM, Yabu Pushelberg and Thomas Juul Hansen. Orlanski Ours has worked on the first NYC residential developments by Herzog and de Meuron, Shigeru Ban, David Chipperfield, Studio Gang, Zaha Hadid, and Michaelis Boyd. She holds a BA in architecture from Barnard College and a master's in architecture from Columbia University. She serves as a Board Member of Southworth Development, advising on their world-renowned golf resorts.

Patrick Rimoux

Light Sculptor

Patrick Rimoux is a light sculptor. After training to teach new technologies, he went on to study at the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris. This unleashed his creativity as he embarked on a passionate

exploration of the many applications of light: cinema, photography, architecture, painting, sculpture. In the 1990s, he founded the Patrick Rimoux agency, which for the past 35 years has carried out projects all over the world, including the Grand-Place and parliaments in Brussels, the Freedom Towers in Johannesburg, the Palais de Jaipur and the Centre de la Francophonie in Quebec City, the French Embassy in New Delhi, the Abbey of Dourgne, the Art Basel fair, the façades of the PSI/MoMA and Payne Whitney House in New York, and the Gare du Nord and Notre Dame in Paris. Rimoux magnifies sculptures by other artists and architects (Kengo Kuma, Franck Gerry, Sou Fujimoto, Jean Marie Duthilleul, Nicolas Michelin, Richard Texier, to mention but a few), or creates his own works for galleries such as Minsky Paris, Weinstein San Francisco, and Akar Prakar New Delhi.

Manuel Spitschan

Research Group Leader, Max Planck Institute for Biological Cybernetics & Professor of Chronobiology & Health, Technical University of Munich

Manuel Spitschan is the Rudolf Mössbauer Assistant Professor of Chronobiology & Health at Technical University of Munich and Max Planck Research Group Leader at the Max Planck Institute for Biological Cybernetics. After undergraduate studies in psychology at the University of St Andrews (2009-2012), he completed his PhD on melanopsin sensitivity in the human visual system at the University of Pennsylvania (2012-2016). Following a post-doc at Stanford University (2016-2017), he joined the University of Oxford on a Sir Henry Wellcome Postdoctoral Fellowship, through which he collaborated with the Centre for Chronobiology in Basel (2017-2021). He is the current Speaker of the Steering Committee of the Daylight Academy, Chair of the Joint Technical Committee 20 of the CIE and past Chair of the Optica (formerly OSA) Color Technical Group.

Ed Stocker

Europe Editor at Large Monocle

Ed Stocker is Monocle's Europe editor at large, based in Milan. He was previously based in Buenos Aires and New York and currently works across the magazine and Monocle Radio from throughout Europe. He is one of the editors of Monocle's yearly newspaper covering the Milan Design Week and last year moderated a roundtable at Salone del Mobile on the future of AI; this year he is on the Fuorisalone jury. Stocker has reported on design and architecture from countries including the United States, Mexico, Ghana, Egypt, Uruguay and Ireland. He has previously been a jury member for ECAL's MAS Design for Luxury & Craftsmanship in Lausanne.

Marjan van Aubel

Solar Designer

Award-winning inventor and solar designer Marjan van Aubel (1985) focuses on sustainability, design and technology. She was ambassador of the Dutch Design Week 2022 and designed the roof of the Dutch pavilion at the World Expo 2000. Another award-winning design is Sunne, a self-powered solar light that captures, stores and produces light indoors. By day, it harvests energy from the sun while it hangs by your window; by night, it brings sunlight into your home. Her book *Solar futures* was published in 2022, it gives a look at the past, present and future of solar energy. Marjan wants to democratize solar power by making it more accessible and attractive to everyone; through her designs, solar energy is integrated into everyday life. Marjan strives to redefine our current relationship with solar energy. She gives objects a dual function by, for example, working with extendable materials or by integrating solar panels that mimic the process of photosynthesis in plants (power plant); for example, the Current table is not only a table but also generates electricity. In collaboration with scientists, engineers and institutions such as Swarovski and ECN, the Dutch Energy Centre, van Aubel works to promote extreme energy efficiency through intelligent design. Marjan talks about innovation and the role of design in the implementation of sustainable technologies.

Rogier van der Heide

Lighting Designer

Rogier van der Heide is an acclaimed lighting designer known for merging the science of light with its emotional and sensory impact. His explorative, artisanal approach emphasizes discovery and rigorous testing through physical models and mockups, crafting lighting environments that are both functional and deeply immersive. Working at the intersection of materials and light, Rogier has pioneered innovations such as luminous glass facades and textile-based designs for celebrities like the Black Eyed Peas and Lady Gaga. He is also celebrated for the iconic luminous ceilings in Apple Stores worldwide. Beyond architectural lighting, Rogier has led industrial design teams at Philips and Sonova, bridging advanced technology with user-centered design. As a passionate educator, Rogier has lectured at Yale, ETH Zürich, and TU Delft, inspiring new ways of thinking about light. Rooted in discovery, Rogier's work redefines how light shapes spaces and human experiences.

A.J. Weissbard

Lighting Designer

Award-winning artist, A.J. Weissbard uses light and space to create works for theater and dance, exhibitions, architectural installations, special events, and fashion around the world. He has collaborated with numerous artists including Robert Wilson, Peter Stein, Luca Ronconi, Marina Abramovic, Peter Greenaway, William Kentridge, David Cronenberg, Andriy Zholdak, Shirin Neshat, Gae Aulenti, Fabio Novembre, Giorgio Armani, Brioni, Hugo Boss, Ermenegildo Zegna, CocoRosie and the Martha Graham Dance Company, to name a few. His work has been presented at major opera houses, festivals, theaters and venues in over 50 countries around the world, including New York's Lincoln Center, Los Angeles Opera, Milan's Teatro alla Scala, the Opera Garnier in Paris, Opera La Monnaie in Brussels, Teatro Real Madrid, Ancient Theater Epidaurous, Deutsche Oper in Berlin, Esplanade in Singapore, Bunka Kaikan in Tokyo, Teatro Municipal in San Paolo, the Royal Opera House in Muscat, the Brooklyn Academy of Music, the Bolshoi Theater in Moscow, the Guggenheim in New York and Bilbao, the Royal Academy in London, the Petit Palais in Paris, the Vitra Design Museum, the Triennale in Milan, the Quirinale in Rome, the Kunstindustrimuseum in Copenhagen, the Shanghai Art Museum, the Aichi World Expo, the Salone del Mobile in Milan, the Venice Biennale and the Louvre in Paris. In addition to teaching and lecturing at numerous institutions and schools around the world, he served as Program Director of the Watermill Summer Program guiding scores of young artists and producing hundreds of projects. A.J. Weissbard advocates for education in the arts.

Carla Wilkins

President-Elect IALD, Senior Partner Lichtvision Design

Carla Wilkins is Board Member of IALD International Lighting Designer's Association. Based in Berlin Carla Wilkins has thirty-five years professional experience as an independent Architectural Lighting Designer and has a background in architecture. In 1997 Ms. Wilkins was one of the founding partners of Lichtvision where she continues working to expand the traditional boundaries of lighting design to encompass all manner of visual experience as global creative director in Lichtvision Design. Over the years Ms. Wilkins has worked on a vast array of projects including master planning, high rise buildings public memorials, art installations and both commercial and residential architecture in large scale format. Her work has been widely published, and she frequently lectures on lighting design and related topics. She is Member of Werkbund Berlin and Bruno Taut Forum.

Robert Wilson

Artist

Born in Waco, Texas, Wilson is one of the world's leading theatre and visual artists. His works unconventionally integrate a wide variety of artistic media, including dance, movement, light, sculpture, music and text. His images are aesthetically striking and emotionally charged, and his productions

have earned worldwide public and critical acclaim. After studying at the University of Texas and the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, Wilson set up The Byrd Hoffman School of Byrds community in New York in the mid-1960s with which he produced his early works, including *Deafman Glance* (1970) and *A Letter for Queen Victoria* (1974-1975). He co-created the opera *Einstein on the Beach* (1976) with Philip Glass. Wilson's artistic collaborators include many writers and musicians such as Heiner Müller, Tom Waits, Susan Sontag, Laurie Anderson, William Burroughs, Lou Reed, Jessye Norman and Anna Calvi. He has also left his mark on masterpieces such as Beckett's *Krapp's Last Tape*, Brecht/Weil's *Threepenny Opera*, Debussy's *Pelléas et Mélisande*, Goethe's *Faust*, Homer's *Odyssey*, Jean de la Fontaine's *Fables*, Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*, Verdi's *La Traviata* and Sophocles' *Oedipus*. Wilson's drawings, paintings and sculptures have been exhibited all over the world in hundreds of solo and group shows, and his work is held in private collections and museums the world over. He has also been the recipient of numerous awards for excellence, including a Pulitzer Prize nomination, two Ubu Awards, the Venice Biennale Golden Lion award, and the Olivier Award. Wilson has been made a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, as well as the German Academy of Arts, and has been awarded eight honorary degrees. France named him a Commander of the Order of Arts and Letters (2003) and an Officer of the Legion of Honour (2014); Germany awarded him the Cross of the Order of Merit (2014).

Drafting Futures. Conversations about Next Perspectives

Mohammed Habbas Al Mutairi

Owner, General Manager, Gallery Design

Mohammed Habbas Al Mutairi is a pioneering entrepreneur whose career spans over three decades in Saudi Arabia's luxury furniture and contracting industry. With a background in computer science and engineering from King Fahad University of Petroleum and Minerals, he seamlessly merged technical acumen with a refined design sensibility. In 1993, he launched Habbas Al Mutairi Co., offering integrated furniture and contracting services. This foundational venture paved the way for his later enterprises, including the Mohammed Habbas Al Mutairi Factory, which enhanced his capacity for custom manufacturing, and Gallery Design—an acclaimed brand that showcases world-class furniture design and craftsmanship. Always ahead of his time, he founded Farsh, an online furniture marketplace, in 2020, bringing innovation to client engagement and retail logistics. Based in Khobar and Dammam, Mohammed is not only a respected business leader but also a family man, whose two architect children contribute to his vision at Gallery Design.

Anne-France Berthelon

Journalist and Creative Consultant

Creative strategy and communication consultant, design critic and freelance journalist based between Paris and Marseille, Anne-France Berthelon is an adept of crossovers, versatility, travels, ideas, encounters and conversations. She has created knitting patterns for fashion magazines while studying Languages and found herself freelancing as a copywriter and strategic planner in the last golden years of advertising, before becoming a trends analyst and brand consultant for fashion agencies. Her multidisciplinary approach, her passion for design and its global ecosystem and her love of travelling the world to meet the new generation of creatives has made her a regular contributor to publications such as IDEAT, Libération, AD China, The Good Life, DAMN or SOON. She has co-curated design exhibitions and conferences in Paris or Beirut, and regularly moderates talks. Being curious is her luxury; and it definitely infuses her creative consultancy approach.

Nivangi Davda

Head Interior Design JSW Realty

Nivangi Davda, a creative mind dedicated to refined design, is the Interior Design Lead at JSW Realty—a division of the US\$25 billion JSW Group. Her approach goes beyond aesthetics; she believes in creating spaces that evoke emotion and foster connection, staying true to her belief that every space should reflect the essence of its inhabitants. Her journey began at Talati & Panthaky Associates, one of India's premier firms in architecture and interior design. It was here that Nivangi quickly established herself as a standout talent. With a keen eye for detail and a strong commitment to quality, she honed her skills in both commercial and residential spaces, refining her ability to enhance living environments. Her trajectory led her to launch her own design studio, and she now contributes her experience and skills to JSW Realty. As a devoted mother and wife, with a deep sense of understanding, she draws inspiration from her experiences, travels, and the diverse cultures she encounters. She collaborates with international designers and local artisans, offering a fresh perspective on design. These influences shape her designs, allowing her to create a thoughtful balance between art and space. Her appreciation for culture is evident in every project, as she thoughtfully blends aesthetics with functionality. Known for her unique style and design perspective, Nivangi is contributing to JSW Realty's growing presence in the world of design.

Massimo De Conti

Architect, Journalist

After graduating in architecture (at Politecnico di Milano, Italy, with studies at the Oslo School of Architecture, Norway), Massimo moved to London in 2000 to join the team of Claudio Silvestrin Architects. Since 2012 he has founded the Massimo De Conti Architect studio. Sensitivity, mental clarity and inventiveness are reflected in its architecture: elegant but not ostentatious, with always less is more in mind. For many years he has worked as journalist too. He was managing editor of BMM magazine and his writings have appeared in several publications such as Wallpaper*, GraziaCasa, Ottagono and Arkitekton. Since 2013, he has been working as a journalist writing of architecture, design, art and fashion for Living.corriere.it, the online design magazine of Corriere della Sera newspaper and has an ongoing collaboration with the magazines Abitare and Interni. He is the author of the book collection of interviews Design Talks: Contemporary Creatives on Architecture and Design published in 2012 by Images Publishing. For Massimo, 25 years spent in London, where he currently lives and works, has become a network of international contacts not only in architecture but also in the media and in the art world. Passionate about communication, he developed the press and communication office for various architectural firms and curated design projects and exhibitions.

Formafantasma

Design Studio

Formafantasma (Andrea Trimarchi, Simone Farresin) is a research-based design studio investigating the ecological, historical, political and social forces shaping the discipline of design today. Whether designing for a client or developing self-initiated projects, the studio applies the same rigorous attention to context, processes and details. Formafantasma's analytical nature translates in meticulous visual outcomes, products and strategies.

Christele Harrouk

Editor in Chief Archdaily

Christele Harrouk is a French-Lebanese architect, urban designer, and Editor-in-Chief of ArchDaily, the world's leading architecture platform. Since joining in 2019, she has played a key role in shaping ArchDaily's editorial direction, strengthening industry partnerships, and driving innovative content strategies that bridge architecture, media, and urban development. A passionate advocate for diverse voices in architecture, Christele actively contributes to global discussions as a speaker, panelist, and writer, fostering meaningful conversations on the built environment. She holds a Master's in Urban Design and a Master's in Architecture, blending her design expertise with a deep understanding of media's role in shaping the profession.

Bjarke Ingels

Architect, Founder and Creative Partner Bjarke Ingels Group

Bjarke believes the architectural profession is best explained with the traditional Danish word for design: Formgiving. As the name suggests it literally means form giving. When you design something, you give form to that which has not yet been given form – you are shaping the future. When you design a space, a building or a city, you are giving form to the world you yourself would want to living in. Named one of Time Magazine's 100 Most Influential People in the World, Bjarke is known for groundbreaking projects that push the boundaries of architecture and urbanism. His recent work includes the Prague Philharmonic, The Chinese National Natural History Museum in Beijing, Zurich Airport, The Woven City in Japan, and Gelephu Mindfulness City in Bhutan. He is also collaborating with NASA and ICON Technologies to design the first permanent human habitat on the Moon. His contributions to architecture and culture have earned him numerous accolades. Bjarke is a Knight of the French Order of Arts et des Lettres and a Knight of the Danish Order of Dannebrog. He was appointed to the EU's New European Bauhaus High-Level Roundtable in 2021 and, since 2023, has served as an advisor to

the King of Bhutan. He is an Honorary Fellow of the AIA, RIBA, and RAIC. His awards include the Venice Biennale's Golden Lion, The French Academy of Architecture's Gold Medal, the Aga Khan Award, and the Louis I. Kahn Memorial Award. In 2011, The Wall Street Journal named him Innovator of the Year, the same year he received the Danish Crown Prince Couple's Culture Prize. Bjarke is also an esteemed educator, having taught at Harvard, Yale, Columbia, and Rice Universities. He holds an honorary professorship at the Royal Academy of Arts, School of Architecture in Copenhagen. His thought leadership has taken him to 10 Downing Street, the Danish Parliament, and the World Economic Forum, where he has spoken about architecture's role in shaping a sustainable and innovative future.

Lesley Lokko

Founder, Chair African Futures Institute

Professor Lesley Lokko OBE is the Founder and Chair of the African Futures Institute (AFI) headquartered in Accra, Ghana and Director of the Nomadic African Studio; an annual winter/summer school located in different cities around the African continent. She holds a BSc (Arch), MArch and PhD in Architecture from the Bartlett School of Architecture, University College London. She was the Founder and Director of the Graduate School of Architecture, University of Johannesburg (2014–2019). She is the Editor of White Papers, Black Marks: Race, Culture, Architecture (University of Minnesota Press, 2000) and the Editor-in-Chief of FOLIO: Journal of Contemporary African Architecture. She is currently a Visiting Professor at the Bartlett School of Architecture and at University College Dublin. She was appointed Curator of the 18th International Architecture Biennale at La Biennale di Venezia in 2023. In January 2023, she was awarded an OBE 'for services to architecture and education' in King Charles' New Year's Honours List. In January 2024, she was awarded the UK's highest architecture award, the RIBA Royal Gold Medal. In April 2024, she was named one of the world's 100 most influential people in the annual TIME100 list.

Manuela Lucà-Dazio

Executive Director The Pritzker Architecture Prize

Manuela Lucà-Dazio holds a degree in architecture from the University of Naples, Italy, and a doctorate in architectural history from the University of Rome-Chieti, Italy. From 2009 until 2019 she has been the Managing Director of the Visual Arts and Architecture Department of La Biennale di Venezia, where she was also responsible of the technical organization and production of the International Exhibitions. She is the Executive Director of the Pritzker Architecture Foundation, and Advisor to the LUMA Foundation in Arles, France.

Gilles Massé

Design Curator, WallpaperStore*, Frankbros, The Level Group

Since 2014, Curator and GMM of FrankBros, former WallpaperSTORE*, the online Design store of Wallpaper* magazine, managed by the company The Level Group, based in Milan, Italy (integrated e-commerce company for leading fashion & design brands). He is responsible for the creative management of the project, launched internationally online in July 2015, with the selection of a carefully curated Brand Mix, and the creation of an exclusive Design and Lifestyle assortment. After 20 years of Export Management for leading industries and brands in Home Collections, Beauty and Jewellery categories, all over the world, Gilles Massé was tapped for the relaunch of the Home, Design & Travel collections of the main Department Store Group, La Rinascente, in Italy, from 2007, with new ownership and strategic management. In 2009, under his creative supervision, a new floor dedicated to Design, the Design Supermarket, was inaugurated in the Milan flagship store, Piazza Duomo, with acclaimed reviews and success. A completely new concept of display, service and curation of brands, assortments & Lifestyle products around the main Design icons story telling. It covers all Home categories like Furniture, Lighting, Technology, Gadgets, Books, Stationery, Office, Luggage, Textile, Candles, Gifts, Decoration, Tableware and Kitchen. Born in Marseille, France, now living in Milan, after

Los Angeles and Paris, and having travelled extensively around the world for business and pleasure, discovering new trends, cultures, craftsmanship, designers and collections.

Dino Michael

Senior Vice President & Global Head Hilton Luxury Brands

With nearly 30 years of experience in the hospitality industry, Dino Michael serves as the Senior Vice President and Global Head for Hilton's luxury brands. In his current position, he oversees the strategic growth of Hilton's luxury and residential portfolio, which includes nearly 500 hotels integrated since 2024, along with a pipeline of over 70 hotels and an expanding branded residential segment. He collaborates closely with operations teams, develops brand training and culture, and leads global brand marketing initiatives. In 2024, the luxury category was enhanced to feature five award-winning brands, including Waldorf Astoria Hotels & Resorts, Conrad Hotels & Resorts, LXR Hotels & Resorts, NoMad Hotels, and Signia by Hilton.

Antonio Monda

Journalist

Antonio Monda is a writer and the Artistic Director of the international literary festival Le Conversazioni. He has directed the Rome Film Festival between 2015 and 2021. He teaches in the Film and Television Department at New York University. He is the director of several documentaries as well as the feature film Dicembre, and has curated exhibitions for the Louvre, MoMA, Lincoln Center and the Guggenheim Museum. A regular contributor to the cultural pages of La Repubblica and Vogue, he is also a columnist for RAI and The Hollywood Reporter. His work has been published by The Paris Review, Fiction, The Common, and Vanity Fair. He is the author of ten novels, five collections of essays and an oral history of Hollywood for One Podcast. His books have been translated into eleven languages. On June 3, 2019, the President of Italian Republic Sergio Mattarella presented him with the decoration of Ufficiale al Merito della Repubblica.

Andrea Obertello

General Manager Four Seasons Hotel Milano

Graduated from Glion Institute of Higher Education, Andrea Obertello began her professional career in hospitality a decade ago with Four Seasons Hotels & Resorts. Her path in the company has taken her across many different countries and continents - from front-office positions in Uruguay and Miami, to leading the Rooms department of the iconic Four Seasons Hotel Firenze. She then joined Four Seasons Hotel Marrakech as Resort Manager before moving to Four Seasons Doha as Hotel Manager in 2017. Native from Argentina, it is her Florentine experience that made her fall in love with the Italian hospitality and culture. She came back to Italy with a wealth of international experiences and leadership skills that will help her drive the hotel's performance in its continued success which started in 1993.

Elisa Orlanski Ours

Chief Planning, Design Officer Corcoran Sunshine Marketing Group

Elisa Orlanski Ours is a designer, educator, and industry leader, currently serving as chief planning & design officer at Corcoran Sunshine Marketing Group. She founded the firm's Planning & Design department 20 years ago, and consults on design and space planning for projects from South Korea to Argentina, from the United States to the Caribbean. Her portfolio ranges from master plans and hotel-branded developments to individual villas, with New York City highlights including 220 Central Park South, 56 Leonard, Hudson Yards, and One High Line. Through her work, she has consulted with developers and shaped the architectural landscape of the city through collaborations with architects and designers including RAMSA, BIG Architects, Charles & Co, Gabellini Sheppard, Pembroke & Ives, Selldorf Partners, KPF, SOM, Yabu Pushelberg and Thomas Juul Hansen. Orlanski Ours has worked on the first NYC residential developments by Herzog and de Meuron, Shigeru Ban, David Chipperfield,

Studio Gang, Zaha Hadid, and Michaelis Boyd. She holds a BA in architecture from Barnard College and a master's in architecture from Columbia University. She serves as a Board Member of Southworth Development, advising on their world-renowned golf resorts.

Pierre-Yves Rochon

Founder and Global Design Director, PYR

For over 40 years, Pierre-Yves Rochon has been a global leader in luxury interior design. Founded in Paris in 1979, his studio, PYR, transforms prestigious hotels, restaurants, and private residences into timeless symbols of elegance. Iconic projects include the Four Seasons George V, the Dorchester in London, the Danieli in Venice and the Waldorf Astoria in New York. Renowned for blending heritage with modernity, Rochon redefines luxury living with meticulously crafted interiors. In 2016, the PYR Paris and Chicago studios joined Perkins&Will, enhancing its innovative and sustainable approach. Known for attention to detail, respect for craftsmanship, and commitment to excellence, Pierre-Yves Rochon continues to shape the future of luxury design, delivering unparalleled elegance and refinement worldwide.

Oliva Sartogo

Co-Founder and Architect Lead VIV Arts

Oliva Sartogo is a curator exploring the intersection of architecture, artistic research, and cultural strategy. As Founder of ARTinD, she fosters dialogue between architecture and contemporary art, shaping narratives that bridge the built environment and conceptual thought. With a background in philosophy, history of art, and architecture, she has collaborated with institutions such as Misk Art Institute, Maxxi museum in Rome, MAK Vienna, and Museo Nivola, and has led international architectural competitions. Previously, she was Art & Architecture Director at Superblue, leading immersive art initiatives. She has spearheaded international cultural competitions for the Saudi government and Silicon Valley, shaping global discourse on art, architecture, and placemaking. Since 2018 she collaborated with Pritzker Prize architects Peter Zumthor, Toyo Ito, Rafael Moneo, Thom Mayne, Lord Norman Foster and international well-known architects Junya Ishigami, Ben Van Berkel, Anne Holtrop, Peter Eisenman, Piero and Nathalie Sartogo, Sou Fujimoto, Alessandro Mendini.

Valeria Segovia

Principal, Design Director Gensler London

As a Principal and Design Director at Gensler, Valeria Segovia leverages her 18 years of experience to lead project teams to deliver design excellence by adopting a forward-thinking and holistic approach to design and commitment to reducing environmental impact and enhancing community wellbeing. She is recognized as an outstanding architect with a diverse design background that includes mixed-use, commercial offices, hospitality, residential, and cultural projects. Segovia takes a passionate approach towards reinventing and repositioning existing structures with a focus on sustainability and circularity to make them relevant again. She is committed to the success of the next generation of architects and focuses on creating links between different generations. She is passionate about the craft of storytelling and currently sits on Hackney Council's Design Review Panel. An inspiring leader and mentor, she prides herself on being a strong advocate for equality, diversity, and innovation in the design industry and is a member of Gensler's Global Inclusion Committee.

Paolo Sorrentino

Oscar Winner Filmmaker

The film director and screenwriter Paolo Sorrentino was born in Naples in 1970. His first feature film, *One Man Up*, was screened at the Venice Film Festival in 2001. He made *The Consequences of Love* in 2004, and *The Family Friend* in 2006, both of which competed at the Cannes Film Festival. He was back at Cannes in 2008 with *Il Divo*, which won the Prix du Jury. He again competed at Cannes in 2011

with *This Must be the Place*, followed two years later by *The Great Beauty*, which won him an Oscar, a Golden Globe, a Bafta for Best Foreign Film and three EFAs. He won at Cannes yet again in 2016 with *Youth*, which netted three EFAs, an Oscar nomination and two Golden Globe nominations. He created the TV series *The Young Pope* in 2016, which was nominated for a Golden Globe Best Actor Award and Emmy Awards for scenography and photography. He wrote the screenplay for *Loro*, starring Toni Servillo, in 2018. In 2019 he shot his second series set in the Vatican, *The New Pope*, starring Jude Law and John Malkovich. In 2021 he wrote and directed the film *The Hand of God*, nominated for a Best Foreign Film at the 2022 Oscars, which won the Silver Lion Grand Jury Prize and the Marcello Mastroianni Award at the 78th edition of the Venice International Film Festival, and also netted 5 David di Donatello 2022 Awards, including Best Film and Best Director and four 2022 Silver Ribbons, including Best Film. In 2024 he wrote and directed *Parthenope*, presented in competition at Cannes and winner of the Golden Ticket for one of the most viewed films of the year.

Claudio Spotti

Spotti Milano

Located on Viale Piave since 1986, Spotti Milano is synonymous with quality living. A trusted destination for design enthusiasts, it offers a unique selection of furniture and complements. For over thirty years, Claudio and Mauro Spotti have introduced the Milanese public to the most interesting new trends in Interior Design. Their store serves as a meeting point for the best Italian and international brands, some of which are represented exclusively. The selection is extensive, ranging from timeless classics to the latest innovations, identified through a passionate research activity, a winning card for the company. The long-established partnerships developed over time have enabled Spotti to reach the most ambitious levels of quality, skillfully combining the tradition of artisanal techniques with innovative design and creativity. As a crossroads for Italian and international clientele, Spotti fosters a continuous exchange of ideas and insights on creating the ideal living space. This dynamic interaction nurtures dialogue, research, selection, experience, and tradition, which Spotti leverages to provide architects and clients with tailored solutions. These solutions are carefully curated to match the space, taste, and needs of those who will inhabit the home, making it uniquely theirs in every detail.

Dawei Wang

Founder, President Classic Living Group

Dawei Wang, founded Classic Living group in 1993, which was the first company that imported directly high end furniture and lifestyle from Europe. Wang has been recognized as a leading entrepreneur in luxury home furnishings and a dedicated advocate of premium lifestyle culture. With over 30 years of dedicated engagement in the home furnishing industry, Wang has demonstrated profound insights and exceptional foresight that have consistently maintained his enterprise's leading position. A seasoned professional in socio-economic and financial domains, he is an accomplished holder of a Doctoral degree in Financial Management from Temple University in the USA.

Stephan Weishaupt

Founder Weishaupt Design Group

Stemming from a desire to nurture and guide sustainable innovation and work more closely with makers, AVENUE ROAD, 5oz. and MAN OF PARTS founder, Stephan Weishaupt, rolls up his sleeves in the name of art and design. An innate editor, he identifies and brings together talented collaborators from across the globe enabling him to engineer truly original experiences. Born and raised in Munich, Stephan's family – a long line of collectors, entrepreneurs, architects, and artists – informed his curiosity, creativity and an openness to explore many points of view. Embodying a Man of Parts himself, Stephan travels the world in search of unique perspectives reflecting the lives of globally-minded people.

In the City

Talks. Library of Light

Matilde Cassani

Artist and Designer

Matilde Cassani Studio operates in the area where architecture, installations and design events intersect. Its work is inspired by the spatial implications of cultural pluralism, and has been exhibited in a great many institutions and events, including the Storefront for Art and Architecture in New York (2011); three editions of the Venice Architecture Biennale (2012, 2014 and 2018); the Victoria and Albert Museum (2015); the Oslo Triennale (2016); the Chicago Architecture Biennial (2017); Manifesta 12 (2018) and Triennale Milano (2019). Cassani has taught in a number of European universities, including the Sandberg Instituut in Amsterdam, and Syracuse Architecture University in Florence. She currently teaches at the NABA in Milan and at the AA Architectural Association in London. Her work is held in the collections of various museums, including the Victoria and Albert Museum, the MAXXI and the Franz Hals Museum in Haarlem.

Luca Cipelletti

Architect and Museographer

Set up in Milan in 2000 by the architect Luca Cipelletti, the AR.CH.IT studio deals with museums, exhibitions, buildings and interior design for private clients. Recent projects include the redevelopment of the Leonardo da Vinci National Museum of Science and Technology in Milan, where it previously carried out the restoration of the Cavallerizze pavilions, the masterplan for the external areas and the design of the Scala dei Chiostrì, as well as new areas given over to exhibitions and education; the Palazzi dell'Arte Rimini, a new museum and sculpture garden dedicated to contemporary art in two medieval palaces; the Museo Archivio Bitossi Ceramiche in Montelupo Fiorentino (Florence); and the Shit Museum in Castelbosco (Piacenza). Luca Cipelletti has been Architectural Director of the Palazzo dell'Arte, home to Triennale Milano (1933, architect Giovanni Muzio) since 2019, where he is working on the renovation of the building as a whole, and on new exhibition and functional projects, such as CUORE, a recently opened archive and research centre, and the redevelopment of the park plan. He has been designing products and furnishing systems since 2018, represented by Galleria Giustini/Stagetti, Rome.

Vinita Chaitanya

Interior Designer

Vinita Chaitanya, Prism, raccoglie successi dal 1988 e ben riflette il branding personale della sua fondatrice. Chaitanya descrive il suo stile come "classico contemporaneo": un mix euforico di sete sontuose, fantasie paisley tradizionali, eccellenti artefatti indiani e oggetti occidentali tra i più desiderabili. Nota come influencer, compare spesso sulle copertine e tra le pagine di riviste come Architectural Digest ed Elle Decor, e spesso partecipa a giurie ed eventi nel mondo del design. Gestisce anche una charity school nel distretto di Kodagu.

Urmila Chakraborty

Professor, Writer, Specialist in Patachitra Folk Art

Urmila Chakraborty, born in India, has been living and working in Milan, Italy, for more than thirty years. She is the founder and owner of Englishour and worked as an adjunct Professor in the Faculty of Linguistic and Cultural Mediation at the State University of Milan. She is a writer, translator and interpreter and has long standing collaborations with various academic and cultural institutions in India and Italy, such as Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca, Visva Bharati University, and Indian Institute

of social Welfare and Business Management. For the last few years she has been working extensively with 'Patachitra' and the 'patuas' of Midnapur organising exhibitions, workshops, lectures, and study tours. She also has a number of papers and publications on the subject.

Margherita Palli

Set Designer

Born in Ticino, she studied scenography in Switzerland and Italy. She graduated in scenography from the Brera Academy of Fine Arts in 1976 and began working with the sculptor Alik Cavaliere, and later with Gae Aulenti in theatre and on the Gare D'Orsay project. In 1984 she opened her own studio in Milan and collaborated with many directors: Ronconi, Avogadro, Barzini, Binasco, Branciaroli, Brockhaus, Cavani, Lievi, Malosti, Martone, Muscato, Rifici, Shammah, Sokurov, with the choreographers Erzalow, Yang Jiang, and with The George Balanchine Trust. The Margherita Palli studio also deals with installation projects for art exhibitions and events. These projects include W. Women in Italian Design, Design Museum 9th edition at Triennale Milano; Corridoio Rosso (Red Corridor) at the 23rd Triennale di Milano; Il Meraviglioso Mondo della Natura (The Wonderful World of Nature) at Palazzo Reale; Opera: Il Palcoscenico della Società (The Stage of Society), at Palazzo del Governatore, as part of Parma Italian Capital of Culture 2021; Ulysses' Dream for the Carmignac Foundation; Storia della Notte e Destino delle Comete (History of Night and Destiny of the Comets) at the Italian Pavilion, 59th International Art Exhibition - Venice Biennale, and Fantasmagoria Callas at the Teatro alla Scala Museum. She has often collaborated with her husband the architect Italo Rota's studio. She has won many awards, including the UBU Prize, the Abbiati Prize, the Gassman Prize, the ETI Prize, the Olimpici del Teatro Prize, the Associazione Nazionale dei Critici di Teatro Prize, and the 2015 Swiss Theatre Award. In 2007 she was included in the Guinness World Records for the world's largest wall of screens. Since 1991 she has devoted herself to teaching: Advisor Leader of the three-year course in Scenography at the NABA Nuova Accademia di Belle Arti Milano NABA; Professor of Scenography at the Academy of Architecture at the Università della Svizzera Italiana in Mendrisio, Professor at the IUAV University of Venice and at the Politecnico di Milano; and has also been invited to give lectures as part of the museography course at the Catholic University in Milan. Since 2024 she has been a non-resident correspondent member of the Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti.

Cristina Kiran Piotti

Italian-Indian Journalist and Consultant

Indian-Italian freelance journalist and consultant, Cristina Kiran Piotti writes primarily about design, art, and current affairs for Italian and international publications such as AD and Vogue India, Wallpaper, D - Repubblica, Sole 24 Ore, HTSI, and Wired. After spending the last 15 years dividing her time between Milan and Mumbai, she wrote 'Indiamania' published by Rizzoli. She is an advocate for the recognition and dissemination of lesser-known Indian and Italian stories related to cultural legacy, as both countries have a diverse range of art and craft forms that have shaped their histories.

Walter Siti

Writer, Literary Critic and Essayist

Walter Siti is one of Italy's most distinguished writers and intellectuals. He edited the complete works of Pier Paolo Pasolini for Mondadori's Meridiani series, and is the author of the podcast *Perché Pasolini?* He has written novels that have left their mark on more than one generation, including *Paradise Overload* (2006) and *Il Contagio* (2008). He won the Strega Prize in 2013 for *Resistere Non Serve a Niente*. His latest book is *C'era Una Volta il Corpo*, published by Feltrinelli.



Malika Verma

Brand Strategist and Vocal Craft Advocate, Founder at Border&Fall

Malika Verma is a brand strategist and vocal advocate centered on future narratives within craft and design. As the Founder of Border&Fall, her agency translates the nuances of handmade into thoughtful initiatives and impactful brand strategies across design, craft, and culture. Border&Fall's non-profit initiatives include the critically acclaimed digital documentation 'The Sari Series: An Anthology of Drape'. Focused on shifting perceptions of Made in India, Verma's work in craft advocacy further extends to documentation, reportage, public manifestos, and advisory roles.

In the City

Design Kiosk

Federica Biasi

Product Designer and Art Director

Federica Biasi, born in Milan in 1989, opened her studio in 2015 after spending two years in the Netherlands, where she deepened her understanding of Nordic design and developed her own distinctive style. Passionate about craftsmanship, photography, and travel, she combines tradition and manufacturing techniques from different cultures with industrial design, always seeking a refined aesthetic and a balance between forms and processes. The tactile aspect and research are always central to her creative journey. Her work ranges from furniture design to objects, surfaces, and exhibition design. Thanks to her 360-degree vision, over the years, she has also taken on roles as a consultant and artistic director for various brands in the industry. In 2018, she was awarded the Rising Talent prize at Maison & Objet, nominated by Andrea Branzi. In 2020, she presented the Lume collection for Nespresso, and in 2021, she won the EDIDA – ELLE DECOR INTERNATIONAL DESIGN AWARD as Young Talent of the Year. More recently, she received the IF Design Award in 2022 and the Kyoto Global Design Award in 2023, and in 2024, Architectural Digest included her among the 100 most influential names in the industry. Her work always places craftsmanship and research at the core, transforming them into the industrial sphere, which is the true essence of her work. This has allowed her to gain international recognition, particularly due to her ability and dedication in renewing traditional manufacturing techniques from around the world with a modern and sophisticated approach.

Stephen Burks and Malika Leiper

Principal & Design Director and Partner & Cultural Director, Stephen Burks Man Made

As partners of the globally renowned industrial design studio Stephen Burks Man Made, Malika Leiper and Stephen Burks unite art, community, and industry through a hands-on, workshop-based creative practice. Their belief that everyone is capable of design has brought them around the world to collaborate with artisans to extend craft traditions into the future while unlocking economic transformation through design. Today, they are pursuing their artistic expressions through residencies and fellowships that bring their hands closer to the act of making.

Aldo Cibic

Founder, Cibicworkshop and Honorary Professor, Tongji University in Shanghai

Aldo Cibic, founder of Cibicworkshop, was born in Vicenza, Italy, in 1955. In 1981, as a partner in Sottsass Associati, he was a founding member of Memphis. His projects, such as "Microrealities" (2004) and "Rethinking Happiness" (2010), have been presented at the Venice Architecture Biennale. His work is mainly related to researching and designing communities and places. Aldo Cibic is honorary professor at the Tongji University, Shanghai. In 2023 he was awarded the honor of Knight of the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic. Also, in 2023 he received the "Magnolia Silver Award" from the Shanghai municipality, in recognition of his contribution to the city's development and international exchanges. His design pieces and drawings are exhibited in the permanent collections of the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam, the Groninger Museum, the CCA (Canadian Center for Architecture) in Montreal, the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, the Triennale Museum of Italian Design in Milan and the Centre Pompidou in Paris.

Pietro Corraini**Designer and Art Director, Corraini Edizioni**

Pietro Corraini is an Italian designer who lives and works in Milan. His work involves deconstructing and reconstructing visual communication and design projects. He holds workshops and seminars at bookstores, festivals, and museum spaces. He is the art director of Corraini Edizioni and the director of the magazine "Un Sedicesimo." He uses graphics, design, art, and everything around him to humorously explore definitions and boundaries. He has designed agendas that shoot, tanks that blow bubbles, colorful stars, and has used tubes, posters, books, confetti, and imagination. "Technology as Decoration" is his latest exhibition, ongoing until April 26 at the Tipografia Bonvini in Milan.

Piero Lissoni**Architect, Designer and Art Director**

Piero Lissoni is architect, art director and designer and is recognized as one of the masters of contemporary design. He possesses an almost forty-year history in the development of projects the world over in the fields of architecture, landscape, interior, product and graphic design. He is also art director for Alpi, Boffi, Living Divani, Lualdi, Porro and Sanlorenzo. Some of the most important architecture and interior projects deserving of mention include the AP House Milan for Audemars Piguet (2024), the new headquarters of Banca Ifis in Rome (2024), the Dorothea Hotel Autograph Collection for Marriott International in Budapest (2023), the AKA hotels in New York and Alexandria, Virginia (2023), the design of The Haven, an exclusive area inside the NCL Norwegian Prima cruise ship (2022), the Shangri-La Shougang Park in Beijing (2021) realized for the 2022 winter Olympics, The Ritz-Carlton Residences in Miami Beach (2020), the Grand Park Hotel in Rovinj, Croatia (2019), the restyling of the historic Camparino in Galleria Bar in Milan (2019), The Middle House for the Swire Hotels Group in Shanghai (2018), the residential projects One Paraiso and Grand Paraiso in Miami (2018), The Oberoi Al Zorah Beach Resort Ajman in the UAE (2017), the interiors of a series of yachts for Sanlorenzo (2017-2020), the Conservatorium Hotel in Amsterdam (2012), the renovation of the historic Teatro Nazionale in Milan (2009), in addition to the corporate headquarters for companies such as Boffi, Glas Italia, Fantini, Living Divani and the shipyards of Sanlorenzo in La Spezia and Ameglia. Piero Lissoni has received a series of international awards, including the Compasso d'Oro Career Award, two Compasso d'Oro ADI, the Good Design Award and the Red Dot Award.

Giulia Ricci**Deputy Editor, About: and Elledecor.it**

Giulia is deputy editor of About: and Elledecor.it. She became a registered journalist after her training in architecture at IUAV University of Venice, the Milan Polytechnic and KU Leuven in Brussels. She was part of the editorial team of Domus from 2018 to 2024. Since 2022, she is part of the technical-scientific committee for Culture of the Foundation of the board of the Architects of Milan and its province. She is an advisor to the EUMiesAwards, the Italian Architecture Prize and the Gubbio Prize. She has been active in research and curating, and has contributed as an author to several publications, from books to magazines. She is co-author of Dante Bini: Mechatronics (2016).

Serena Scarpello**Journalist**

Serena is a journalist and is currently Head of Content at MoSt, the creative agency of Studio Editoriale. She is the Managing Editor of Urbano, Borio Mangiarotti's magazine on urban culture. She lectures on communication design at NABA in Milan and on brand journalism at the LUISS School of Government in Rome. She wrote the investigative essay *Communicating Less, Communicating Better* (published by Guerini Next). She was born in Pescara and has lived in Milan for 15 years. She has also lived in Rome, Madrid and Brussels.

Alessandro Valenti

Architect and Editor-in-Chief, Elledecor.it and About:

Roman, architect, with a Master's degree from Barcelona and a PhD from Italy, he is the Managing Director of Elledecor.it and About. Professor of Interior Architecture at the University of Genoa, he is the author of essays for scientific magazines such as Agathon and GUD, and books such as *Case Disperatamente Contemporanee*, *Patricia Urquiola. Time to Make a Book* and *Nuovi Paesaggi Domestici. L'abitare ai tempi del Coronavirus rappresentato in 3 atti e 3 epiloghi*. He is also a guest professor at BUCT University in Beijing.

Olimpia Zagnoli

Illustrator and Multidisciplinary Artist

Olimpia Zagnoli is an illustrator and multidisciplinary artist; her art has appeared internationally in a variety of printed formats, as well as in galleries and children's books, in branding campaigns and subway stops. Her illustrations have been featured, among others, in *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker* and *Vogue Italia*, and on book covers published by Penguin, Taschen and Feltrinelli. Her commercial clients include Elizabeth Arden, Barilla and Apple, and she has designed capsule collections and accessories for brands including Dior, Prada and Fendi. She is the co-founder of Clodomiro, a family-owned design line. Her most recent published books include *Caleidoscopica*, a retrospective marking the first decade of her career and *L'Omino di Niente*, an illustrated children's book written by Gianni Rodari. Alongside her two-dimensional work, Olimpia has experimented with kinetic sculptures, neon design, music video and ceramics; this work has been exhibited internationally at galleries in Milan, Los Angeles and Düsseldorf, as well as in institutions such as Chiostrì di San Pietro, in Reggio Emilia, and the Sejong Center in Seoul. She lives in Milan in an apartment with a silver bathroom.

Salone del Mobile.Milano

Maria Porro

President Salone del Mobile.Milano

Born in Como in 1983, Maria Porro has been President of Assarredo since being unanimously elected in September 2020, and is the first woman to take on this role. She joined the Board of Directors of Assarredo in 2017 and the General Council of FederlegnoArredo in 2019. She is Director of Marketing and Communication at Porro S.p.A., an old-established Italian design brand, set up by her great grandfather Giulio in 1925. She joined the company permanently in 2014, with responsibility for bolstering the company's international trade network and strengthening its communication strategies, before taking on her current role, with sustainable development very much to the forefront. She graduated cum laude in Set Design from the Brera Academy of Fine Arts, and worked in theatre, art and large events as a designer, coordinator and curator. She has always maintained strong ties to the family firm and the design world, collaborating with her father Lorenzo Porro and with the Lissoni Associati studio in particular, in the field of stylistic research and new product development, and personally overseeing the company's presentations at the Salone del Mobile. Starting from July 2021 she has become President of Salone del Mobile.Milano.

Claudio Feltrin

President FederlegnoArredo

Claudio Feltrin has been the President of FederlegnoArredo since October 2020 and Vice President of Federlegno Arredo Eventi S.p.A. since March 2021. In 2014, he joined the Board of Directors of Assarredo and became its President in 2017, a position he left upon his election to lead the Federation for the 2020-2024 quadrennium. In March 2023, he was reconfirmed in his position until 2026. Claudio Feltrin is also the President of Arper S.p.A., an Italian design company that creates seating, tables, and furniture accessories for public spaces, workplaces, and homes. The company was founded in 1989 by his father Luigi and his brother Mauro.

Carlo Urbinati

President Assoluce, FederlegnoArredo

Carlo Urbinati joined the board of FederlegnoArredo's Assoluce in 2017 as Vice President and was elected President in 2020. Together with the Presidential Council of Assoluce, he collaborated with the Salone del Mobile.Milano to renew the mission and format of Euroluce, in order for the event to showcase every segment of the lighting industry and to attract all lighting specialists. President Urbinati brings to Assoluce the vast experience he has gained as an entrepreneur, starting in 1981 when he arrived in Venice to manage glass lighting orders for a new company from the small island of Murano: Foscarini. From 1983, with Alessandro Vecchiato, he designed and developed the brand's lamp range; in 1988, again with Vecchiato, he took over Foscarini and was its President until he became sole shareholder in 2014.

Marco Sabetta

General Manager, Salone del Mobile.Milano

He was born in Milan in 1958. He took his degree in Economics and Commerce from Milan's Bocconi University, specialising in industrial economics/marketing. His first job was for the Fininvest Group in 1984; he then went on to take up important positions at Publitalia working his way up to becoming General Manager of the Lombardy Trade Directorate. He became Sales Manager for the E.BISCOM Group in 2000, moving on the following year to become Press Sales Manager and head of the Internet Division of Publikompass, a Fiat Group subsidiary, later becoming Director of Events, Special Initiatives and Multimedia Projects. He became Marketing and Sales Consultant for the Italian arm of VRWAY COMMUNICATIONS, a Swiss communications and internet services company, in 2004. He was the

Commercial Director of F.C. Internazionale di Milano from 2004 to 2007. In 2008 he was appointed General Manager of the Milan Salone del Mobile, which encapsulates 7 other exhibitions harnessing the entire home-furnishing system: EuroCucina (International Kitchen Furniture Exhibition) with FTK, Technology For the Kitchen, the International Bathroom Exhibition, Euroluce, Workplace3.0, S.Project, the International Furnishing Accessories Exhibition and SaloneSatellite.

Andrea Vaiani

Exhibitions Director, Salone del Mobile.Milano

Andrea Vaiani boasts a strong background in commercial management and operational supervision of major events, particularly in design-related industries. He has managed Miart – Milan's International Modern and Contemporary Art Fair – and MIFED – International film, tv film and documentary market – and played a key role in planning and executing major international exhibitions in Italy and abroad, including Salone del Mobile.Milano. His expertise spans contractual negotiations, exhibition layout design, and operational planning, ensuring the seamless execution of large-scale events. From 1991 to 2000, Vaiani served as Key Account Manager for Salone Internazionale del Mobile. He then held the position of Exhibition Manager at Rassegne S.p.A., Fondazione Fiera Milano, until 2004, and was Commercial Director of Cosmit S.p.A. for 11 years (2005-2015). In September 2015, he was appointed Exhibitions Director of Salone del Mobile.Milano, overseeing seven specialized exhibitions that encompass the entire home-furnishing sector: EuroCucina (International Kitchen Furniture Exhibition) with FTK – Technology For the Kitchen, the International Bathroom Exhibition, Euroluce, Workplace3.0, S.Project, the International Furnishing Accessories Exhibition, and SaloneSatellite. Additionally, he has managed international editions of Salone del Mobile in the United States, Russia, and China, expanding the event's global reach and influence.

Luca Adornato

Marketing and Communication Director, Salone del Mobile.Milano

Born in Rome in 1981, he graduated in International Business and Economics from Nottingham Trent University. He began his professional career in 2004 in the marketing department at Juventus, rising up through the ranks to become Consumer Marketing Manager in 2012, managing, developing and consolidating consumer-focused activities. He became Brand Development Manager in 2015 and helmed the project for reviving the club's visual identity, a project that garnered international awards and is still recognised as one of the most significant and stand-out rebranding projects in the sector. In 2018, he became Head of Marketing, assuming responsibility for all the club's marketing activities with the aim of supporting the growth of revenue lines, enhancing the brand's reputation internationally and strengthening the digital ecosystem. Since March 2022 he has been Marketing and Communication Director of the Salone del Mobile.Milano, a position that includes responsibility for and supervision of brand, marketing, digital and press office activities, with the aim of enhancing and supporting the Salone's development path and consolidating the company's core business.

Marva Griffin Wilshire

Founder and Curator SaloneSatellite, Ambassador of International Relations

Marva Griffin Wilshire was born in Venezuela and Milan became her adopted city when she started working in the design and furnishing sector. She is currently the International Relations Ambassador for the Salone del Mobile.Milano and a Visiting Professor at Tongji University, College of Design and Innovation (D&I), Shanghai, China. She set up SaloneSatellite in 1998, which netted the Golden Compass Lifetime Award XXIII in May 2014. She was awarded the Ambrogino d'Oro in 2017, an Honorary Masters Degree in Design from Milan Polytechnic University in 2021 and, in 2024, an Honorary Doctorate in Fine Arts from the Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, USA. She has been a member of the Philip Johnson Architecture & Design Committee of the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York since 2001. She has been a global Italian Design Ambassador since 2016.

Annalisa Rosso

Editorial Director and Cultural Events Advisor, Salone del Mobile.Milano

Annalisa Rosso is Salone del Mobile.Milano's Editorial Director and Cultural Events Advisor, and Director of The Euroluce International Lighting Forum. Among the projects conceived and developed for Salone, the exhibition "Interiors by David Lynch. A Thinking Room" in Milan, and the performative installation "The Orbit's Orbit" by Matilde Cassani in Shanghai. Rosso also curated talks with speakers such as Shigeru Ban, Francis Kéré, Hans Ulrich Obrist, and John Pawson. She co-founded Mr.Lawrence, a strategic design consultancy fostering meaningful connections and defining new market perspectives. Key collaborations include B&B Italia, Nemo Group, EMU, Ambientec, ETEL, Four Seasons Milano, DesignSingapore Council, Craft ACT Australia, IRTHI UAE. TEDx speaker and Design Ambassador for the Italian Design Day in Prague, Hong Kong and Copenhagen, she has served on juries and committees including The Design Prize in Milan, Design Parade in Hyères, Designblok in Prague, Collectible in Brussels, Madrid Design Festival, and The Advisory Hive of Società delle Api.