
Media Release
IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Southeast Asia's Foremost Designers converge on
EMERGE @ FIND for Singapore Design Week 2023**

*Over 50 designers to present works around this year's theme of
'CRAFT + INDUSTRY: MAN + MACHINE'*



Clockwise from top left: Stamping Chairs by THINKK Studio of Thailand; wall mounted décor by Denny R Priyatna, AIEVL Design Studio of Indonesia; and Lóp Lamps by Thomas Vincent, Bang of Vietnam are some of the bold creations showing in response to this year's theme of 'CRAFT + INDUSTRY: MAN + MACHINE'.

Photos courtesy of THINKK Studio, AIEVL Design Studio and Bang.

Singapore, 4 August 2023: Building on the resounding success of its first edition, the Southeast Asian design talent showcase will be returning to EMERGE @ FIND from 21 to 23 September 2023, as a key event of Singapore Design Week.

Presented by DesignSingapore Council (Dsg) and supported by FIND – Design Fair Asia, EMERGE @ FIND will gather more than 50 of the region's most exciting designers who will present pieces specially created for this year's edition across 800 sqm of exhibition space.

Curator of the showcase, Suzy Annetta, expands on last year's exploration of Materiality with this year's theme, 'CRAFT + INDUSTRY: MAN + MACHINE'. The fresh works will exemplify the diverse spectrum of work produced across the region – from the handmade and crafted, to pure industrial and/or mass production.

“Discover a collection of Southeast Asian designers and artists whose work is shaped by a variety of approaches – from a rootedness in ancient craft, to interpretations of the traditional through new materials and techniques, to methods of working that are entirely reliant on contemporary technological innovation. From fully developed to experimental, each piece is deeply considered, shining a light on the cross-currents between traditional crafts, new technologies and interdisciplinary methods,” said Annetta.

Diversity of Design Talent

Visitors can expect to see a mix of returning and new designers from six countries – Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines and Vietnam working across different materials and methods.



From left: Khoo V-Ho of Dad’s Wood from Malaysia works with carpenters to fashion furniture from solid wood slabs; Chini Lichangco of Chini Studio from the Philippines prefers the human touch when fashioning her lamps.

Photos by: Shooting Gallery

Among the crop showing for the first time are Tan Wei Xiang from Singapore, Khoo V-Ho and Giselle Khoo of Dad’s Wood from Malaysia, Hana Surya of Threadapeutic from Indonesia, Charnon Nakornsang of Nakornsang Studio from Thailand, Chini Lichangco of Chini Studio from the Philippines, and Thanh Tam Nguyen Tran of Tam’s Studio from Vietnam, just to name a few.

Thanh, who designs and creates screens using a heat presser on nylon sheets, is looking forward to her debut. “EMERGE is a perfect launching pad for Southeast Asian designers to make a name for themselves in the design community,” said Thanh.

Fellow debutant, Lichangco, who creates lighting fixtures and table top accessories by working with local suppliers and craftsmen to showcase Filipino talent, ingenuity, and craftsmanship, echoes the sentiment of showing at EMERGE. “What I’m presenting for EMERGE would be my KAIA Collection. I’ve always been interested in how raw texture in nature comes to life, and I wanted to create that in my pieces,” said Lichangco.



From left: Eva Natasa from Indonesia and Tiffany Loy from Singapore are among the returning designers to EMERGE who will present fresh works with new techniques at the showcase. Photos by: Shooting Gallery

Returning designers are also taking the opportunity to launch new products and present fresh ideas at the showcase: Indonesian designer, Eva Natasa, is putting a different spin on her L02 stools with the use of natural indigo dye; Singapore's Tiffany Loy, a textile designer, will be creating smaller pieces this time, but pushing the technique and materials further; and Thailand's Teerapoj Teeropas is creating a special collection in collaboration with artisans.

"Working with skilled craftsmen means being able to witness my designs come to life through their hands rather than just on paper. There have been many times when the lifelong skills possessed by the craftsmen helped push my designs further. It was a pleasure to exchange know-how, and this has been a true collaboration," shared Teeropas.

"We are excited to welcome so many talented craftsmen and women to FIND this year. The diversity, creativity and inimitable artistry on display illustrates again how bright the future of design in Asia really is," said Carl Press, Event Director, FIND – Design Fair Asia.

"Singapore has always connected people, ideas and trades as an international hub and the gateway to Asia. As the organiser of Singapore Design Week (SDW), DesignSingapore Council envisions a festival that also celebrates and champions the design talent in Southeast Asia. We're proud to present this year's edition of EMERGE @ FIND, and believe this showcase will propel the region further on the global design landscape," said Dawn Lim, Executive Director of Dsg.



Admission to EMERGE @ FIND is free with registration by 20 September 2023 on FIND – Design Fair Asia’s website. For onsite registration, an admission fee of S\$39 will apply.

EMERGE @ FIND

21 to 23 September 2023

10.00am to 6.00pm

Marina Bay Sands, Convention Centre Singapore

Level 1, Hall A

10 Bayfront Ave

Singapore 018956

<https://www.designfairasia.com>

About Singapore Design Week

One of Asia’s premier design festivals, Singapore Design Week (SDW) celebrates Singapore’s distinctive brand of creativity, exploring design through three defining festival pillars: Design Futures, Design Marketplace and Design Impact.

Design Futures focuses on the design of the future and the future of design, through the lens of forward-looking Singapore – where a more positive future is prototyped for Singapore and the world. Design Marketplace uncovers lifestyle trends from across the globe, with a spotlight on the fast-growing Southeast Asia region. Design Impact inspires with innovative and impactful design solutions that tackle society’s biggest questions and create a better world by design.

Organised by DesignSingapore Council, SDW is a celebration of creativity and innovation, championing thought leadership and showcasing the best of design from Singapore and beyond in our UNESCO City of Design.

For more information, please visit sdw.sg.

About the DesignSingapore Council (Dsg)

The DesignSingapore Council’s (Dsg’s) vision is for Singapore to be an innovation-driven economy and a loveable city by design. As the national agency that promotes design, our mission is to develop the design sector, help Singapore use design for innovation and growth, and make life better in this UNESCO Creative City of Design. Dsg is a subsidiary of the Singapore Economic Development Board.

For more information, please visit designsingapore.org.

About FIND – Design Fair Asia

FIND – Design Fair Asia, a joint venture between dmg events (organiser of INDEX, Big 5, HI Design Asia) and Fiera Milano (host of the Salone di Mobile), is a combination of trade show and design fair, offering a carefully curated selection of furniture, interiors and design brands. As an anchor event of Singapore Design Week organised by DesignSingapore Council, FIND – Design Fair Asia acts as a stimulating marketplace connecting leading suppliers across furniture, lighting, décor, textiles, design technology, home K&B and surface materials with retail buyers, residential and commercial property developers, architects, hospitality professionals, interior designers, high-net-worth individuals and Asia-based FF&E contractors.

With key stakeholders such as DesignSingapore Council and Italian Trade Agency, numerous regional partner associations and supported by the Singapore Tourism Board (STB), FIND will return to the iconic Marina Bay Sands with 300 international brands, an expanded hosted buyer program and exciting on-site initiatives across 12,500 sqm of exhibition space.

For more information, please visit www.designfairasia.com

Media kit for EMERGE @ FIND can be found [here](#). For more information, photos and interviews with the curator and/or designers, please reach out to:

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ANNEX: LIST OF DESIGNERS AT EMERGE @ FIND 2023

INDONESIA

Abie Abdillah — STUDIOHIJI

Abie Abdillah is principal designer at STUDIOHIJI, a Jakarta-based design studio that creates contemporary rattan home furniture. For each of his pieces, skilled craftsmen use time-tested techniques to bring out the beauty of natural rattan sourced responsibly within Indonesia — the world's largest producer of this traditional material. Through the contemporary form and curves of his designs, Abie aims to renew consumer interest in rattan, and in so doing, contribute to the preservation of the rattan industry. STUDIOHIJI's works were selected for the Asian STAR Showcase at the International Furniture Fair Singapore 2014 — a collection of pieces by rising designers from across Asia. Abie was also one of six promising young designers selected as Rising Asian Talents to present their works at Maison&Objet Asia 2015 in Singapore. In addition, he was a winner, alongside four other designers, of the ASEAN Selection in the Innovative Craft Awards 2015.

Hana Surya — Threadapeutic

Hana Surya is founder and creative director of Threadapeutic, a small band of local artisans with a shared passion for fabric reconstruction and a goal to minimise waste. Thread work has always been a source of therapy for Hana, who was taught to sew as a young girl by her seamstress mother. In 2015, Hana's discovery of the wasteful culture in fast fashion led her to start a textile studio in East Jakarta with a focus on conscious production. Her team of local seamsters experiment with fabric offcuts and dead stock, creating one-off textile pieces for clients and designers — from contemporary bags and fashion accessories to home furnishings and tapestries. In this way Hana hopes to inspire her fellow manufacturers to discover new potentials in unwanted materials around them.

EVA NATASA

EVA NATASA is a Bali-based design brand that creates furniture which inspires mindfulness in daily life. Each piece of furniture designed by the studio is made by highly skilled craftsmen using the finest natural materials, with every step from the beginning until the end of the production process rooted in respect for the earth and its inhabitants. Every piece of furniture is cared for and assembled individually, with different tones and grains of wood chosen to achieve a high-quality and harmonious effect. After assembly, each product is then prototyped three to four times to test all its ergonomic and constructive aspects.

Alvin Tjitrowirjo, Angela Mayrina, Jesslyn Sutisna — alvinT

Founded in 2006, alvinT is a Jakarta-based furniture brand started by Alvin Tjitrowirjo which amalgamates Indonesia's rich cultural heritage and artisanal approach with contemporary sensibilities. Authenticity is the driving force behind the company's innovation: while they revere tradition, the designers would like their products to stand as a testament to character in an increasingly homogenised world. They also believe that design should not only be seen but also felt — one of the reasons why all alvinT products are handmade by skilled local artisans. The company's furniture collections have been exhibited in various international exhibitions, including Milan Design Week, Stockholm Furniture Fair, Maison&Objet Paris, DESIGNART TOKYO and NYCxDESIGN Festival.

Vincentius Aldi Masella — Owalla

Born in 1994, Vincentius Aldi Masella is creative director of Owalla. A graduate of the Sepuluh Nopember Institute of Technology in Surabaya, where he studied interior design, Vincent designs furniture, lighting and rugs, and has collaborated with furniture brands from Indonesia, Spain and India. He has also worked on industrial projects on the Indonesian island of Belitung, and developed and optimised products for the Indonesian Design and Development Center, which is run under the auspices of the Ministry of Trade. Vincent is currently mentoring furniture designers at the Sarawak Design Centre in Malaysia, where he helped to organise Sarawak Design Week 2022.

Denny R Priyatna — AIEVL

Denny R Priyatna is an Indonesian industrial and product designer who is the founder of the Jakarta-based AIEVL design studio. An alumnus of the Bandung Institute of Technology, Denny also has a Master's degree from Central Saint Martins in London. In his work, he likes to explore the interaction between humans and inanimate objects. He also experiments with materials and manufacturing techniques to create commercial, conceptual and experimental products. Denny's works have been exhibited internationally and won various awards, including the Silver Award at the A' Design Award 2014–15 and two Merit Winners at the Singapore Furniture Design Award 2013.

Zulyo Kumara — Zulyo Kumara Studio

Zulyo Kumara is an interior, furniture and product designer who graduated from the Indonesian Institute of the Arts in Yogyakarta before going on to complete a short course at the Istituto Marangoni in Milan. Having previously worked for alvinT and Elenbee Cipta Desain, Zulyo has collaborated with numerous product and furniture brands. His own works have won various competitions, and have also been exhibited internationally. In addition, Zulyo was selected as one of the Creative Talents representing Indonesia at the Milan Furniture Fair 2018.

Eugenio Hendro — Eugenio Hendro Design Studio

Having spent his formative years in the city of Manado in North Sulawesi, product designer Eugenio Hendro has always possessed a keen attention to detail, a love of exploration and a passion for the culture of his home country. A graduate from the Bandung Institute of Technology majoring in industrial design, Eugenio focuses on designing objects and furniture items that incorporate a variety of cultural contexts, combining modern technology with traditional craftsmanship. The rich and heterogeneous culture of Indonesia continues to inspire him, bringing to the fore its diverse elements in his various works. By empathising with the people facing challenges to themselves and their natural environment in the modern age, Eugenio continually and holistically explores the many possibilities for managing and overcoming these challenges through his product designs. The winner of the Hospitality Indonesia 2019 Gold Designer award, Eugenio defines the spirit behind his design philosophy as “provoking a fresh mindset and perspective while redefining luxury”.

Handhyanto “Handy” Hardian — studiohand

Handhyanto “Handy” Hardian is a product designer based in Jakarta, Indonesia. His career in furniture and interior design spans over ten years and has resulted in innovative works that have won various furniture design competitions in Indonesia. Handy has also been a finalist in the RoPlastic Prize and Good Design Indonesia, while his works have been exhibited in both national and international design shows, promoting a new perspective on Indonesian design. Handy’s design characteristic is focused on new materials, encouraging local craftsmen to dig deeper into traditional Indonesian crafts, which are presented in a simple form. His interior design practice studiohand continues to tell stories of these materials and processes, especially in the area of crafts and design development for small-scale industries within Indonesia.

Hendro Hadinata — Studio Hendro Hadinata

The founder of Studio Hendro Hadinata, Hendro Hadinata has showcased his designs at leading design exhibitions around the world, such as Maison&Objet, the International Furniture Fair Tokyo and CASA Indonesia. Hendro’s designs carry a modern aesthetic originating in a cultural theme. Before he starts any sketch, he looks up cultural references to see how the past can be used as a solution to the present. The result is a contemporary Indonesian design that is rich in culture and simple in form. Hendro’s furniture brand EVERY features a collection of collaborative works between local designers and craftsmen, reflecting the brand’s core values of innovation, creativity, collaboration and local craftsmanship.

Budiman Ong — Ong Cen Kuang

Born and raised in North Sumatra, Budiman Ong is a graduate of Gray’s School of Art in the UK. In 2008, he founded Ong Cen Kuang (OCK), which focuses on quality handmade decorative lighting. At its studio in Bali, OCK has created a strong collection of original pieces reflecting Budiman’s core design principles, which respect not only the production process but also the unique characteristics of different materials. Budiman has always been drawn to lighting — the irreplaceable element in any home — and his creations fuse traditional craft with modern elements to form products that are at once innovative and timeless.



Budiman Ong — Jia by OCK

In 2020, Budiman Ong of studio Ong Cen Kuang (OCK) got together with two of his friends, Rudi Michael Winata and Yang Yang Hartono, to found Jia by OCK, a Bali-based home accessories brand revolving around craft, design and culture. Jia's aim is to provide a collective retail experience and styling service, while its priority is to build and sustain a healthy ecosystem of creative communities within Indonesia.

MALAYSIA

Khoo V-Ho, Giselle Khoo — Dad's Woods

It can be said that V-Ho and Giselle Khoo were born into the furnishing industry. In 1988, their father opened his first furniture shop, and over the span of his career expanded it to five shops across Penang plus a business importing furniture for local distribution. However, the furniture business did not come naturally to the two siblings, and it was only in 2017 — two years after their father had passed away — that they started Dad's Woods, a company that specialises in designing and crafting solid-wood furniture with the aim of presenting local woods and materials in the best possible light. This is the journey that the siblings have been on ever since.

Lucas Eng — BALAK's

Lucas Eng is the founder of BALAK's, a furniture brand that engineers quality wood into functional pieces that bring nature and ergonomic comfort into the workspace. BALAK's products are characterised by organically developed wood patterns, colours and textures which are entirely unique and impossible to replicate. Behind the company brand is a bunch of kids from the foot of a mountain in Penang. Backed by three generations of woodworking experience, these artisans are continually seeking to evolve their craftsmanship as new tools and knowledge emerge. The result is a line of robust products that continues to grow with the times.

Jamie Kok — empt studio

Jamie Kok is a co-founder of empt studio, an interior architecture design practice based in Penang. Through his practice, Jamie aims to realise his core vision of creating sensible designs with a holistic approach. Underpinning this vision is the goal of giving life and purpose to each space so that it breathes soul from deep human connections — a goal that enables him to deliver design solutions that others do not see or simply do not want to see. Believing that design is not only about form and function, Jamie is able to channel his core values into authentic outcomes, crafting spaces where people can feel, shape and age gracefully over time.

Wei Ming Tan — Aureole Design

A typography major from the UK, Wei Ming Tan worked as a graphic designer after returning to Kuala Lumpur. However, her passion for furniture and lighting design spurred her to explore beyond the two-dimensional, and in 2007 she joined a design collective producing custom furniture, lighting and interior pieces. This experience gave Wei Ming the platform she needed to form her own brand, Aureole Design, in 2013. Aureole approaches design within the context of simplicity, be it in the purity of lines or the unadorned elegance of a material. Within this approach, the richness of Asian culture inspires the process, translating the material into a form which allows its design to accent the finished product.

Chong Xin Dean, Tan Wei Ming — Sputnik Forest Labs

Chong Xin Dean is a designer at Sputnik Forest Labs, a Penang-based multidisciplinary design studio founded in 2016 by Tan Wei Ming. Positioned as a spatial and landscape botanical design consultant, Sputnik tailor-makes interior and exterior spaces, using a wide range of plants to form “expressions of atmospheric visual arts”. Its past plant-scaping projects include the garden at the Penang Harmony Centre — an activity and resource space for Buddhists, Christians, Hindus, Sikhs and Taoists.

Shahril Faisal — SHAHRIL FAISAL Design

Shahril Faisal was born in Kuala Lumpur in 1983. A graduate in industrial design from the Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, he founded SHAHRIL FAISAL Design in 2014. Originally based in Delft in the Netherlands, the studio relocated in 2018 to Kuala Lumpur, where Shahril worked with three emerging brands on their furniture collections. The studio also designs, builds and supplies furniture sets for numerous cafés and hotels. Shahril is a multi-award-winning designer. In 2018, he won the Japan Good Design Award for his Essimetri series for Nokta, while in 2019 he came first in the Elite Design Awards in Switzerland. Shahril’s works have been exhibited in furniture fairs, art installations and galleries in Kuala Lumpur, Milan, Paris, Tokyo, Shanghai, Taipei, Singapore and Melbourne, and have featured in renowned publications such as CULT Magazine in Australia, Canadian Interiors, ELLE DECOR India, Going Places by Malaysia Airlines, and the Volkskrant in the Netherlands. Shahril has also worked as a guest lecturer in several Malaysian universities and colleges, and as a guest speaker at numerous events across Asia.

THE PHILIPPINES

Rita Nazareno, Gabriel Lichauco — Nazareno/Lichauco

Designers Rita Nazareno and Gabriel Lichauco have been collaborating on projects since 2016. Rita holds Master's degrees in both communication arts (from the Academy of Art University in San Francisco) and design management (from the London College of Fashion). She is the creative director of ZACARIAS 1925, a brand of hand-woven bags and home accessories, and has participated in international trade shows in Milan, Florence, Paris, Dusseldorf, London, Singapore and Tokyo. Gabriel holds a Master's degree in industrial design from the Scuola Politecnica di Design in Milan. He founded the design practice openstudio in 2005, and the Emi-handmade brand in 2010. While in Milan, he actively participated in several projects with Artimede, Microsoft Italy, Piquadro and IRSAP. His projects in the Philippines include product, furniture and interior design. In 2019, Nazareno/Lichauco curated the Philippine participation at Maison&Objet Paris, and they have since undertaken the creative direction for the 2020–2022 editions. They also curated the 2020 design exhibition ITIM: Material Manipulations in Black, originally slated for Milan Design Week's Fuorisalone and reinstalled in Manila and online on FAME+. Nazareno/Lichauco has its own production facility north of Manila.

Edward Sibunga — e/lou

Edward Sibunga is design director of e/lou, a furniture studio located in the municipality of Rodriguez in Rizal province. He studied industrial and product design at the University of Santo Tomas in Manila, and completed a postgraduate programme in Innovative and Creative Entrepreneurship at Thames International Business School in Quezon City. In 2014, he was selected for Red Box Design Talents, a development programme for Philippine designers initiated by the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions. In 2017, he won the Grand Prize in the A Chair + More Furniture competition at the Anthology Architecture and Design Festival in Manila. Then in 2019, he won a Special Award at the Rubberwood Furniture Design Competition organised by the Forest Products Research and Development Institute. In his work, Edward is driven to finding the right balance between design and functionality.

Selena Placino — Selena Placino

Selena Placino is an industrial designer who graduated with distinction from De La Salle–College of Saint Benilde in Manila. She has collaborated with many brands, such as The Walt Disney Company, KENNETHCOBONPUE, Desall and Chicco. She has also participated in several design challenges, including the Polli Green Concept Award 2021, the HAY Talent Award Asia 2020 and Chicco's It's Teething Time! competition, where she won First Place for her Forest Friends teether collection. Selena believes that good design can make a difference in people's lives. Her designs range from furniture to consumer goods, and she is always on the lookout for new materials and technologies to incorporate into them, constantly pushing the boundaries of what is possible. Finding opportunities to inject interactive and cultural elements into her creations, Selena designs products that are not only functional but also aesthetically pleasing.

Jasser Aguila — Jasser Studio

Jasser Aguila graduated from De La Salle–College of Saint Benilde with a degree in industrial design. After his studies, he worked as an apprentice for the world-renowned furniture designer Kenneth Cobonpue on the island of Cebu. During his time in Cebu, he gained expertise working on projects with international designers, developing a range of products including home decor and sculptures. The world's unrestricted and constantly evolving nature serves as an inspiration to Jasser. Using his experience, he hopes to abstractly represent the notions of objects that are influenced by different stories, real people and everyday scenarios.

Stanley Ruiz — Estudio Ruiz Design Consultancy

Stanley Ruiz is principal of Estudio Ruiz Design Consultancy, a Manila-based studio specialising in products for the furniture, lighting and home furnishings sector. Born and raised in Manila, Stanley lived for several years in Bali and New York, and his creations are an amalgam of influences held together by a singular, rational approach to product design. His works have appeared at the Museum of Arts and Design and the New Museum of Contemporary Art in New York. He has also exhibited at the Salone Del Mobile in Milan, the International Contemporary Furniture Fair in New York, Maison&Objet in Paris and Singapore, and Ambiente in Frankfurt. Stanley has received several accolades, including two Katha Awards and the Rising Asian Talent award at Maison&Objet. His recent projects include furniture design for Areté and the Ateneo Art Gallery in Manila, sculptural pieces for Conrad Manila, and creative direction for the Philippine delegation at NY NOW. Stanley is currently the creative director for the Department of Trade and Industry's Go Lokal! platform. He is also a faculty member at SoFA Design Institute and the College of Fine Arts at the University of the Philippines Diliman.

Chini Lichangco — Chini studio

After graduating in industrial design from De La Salle–College of Saint Benilde, Chini Lichangco worked for world-renowned designer Kenneth Cobonpue in Cebu, where she gained a deeper understanding of design principles and the properties of different materials. She also learned how to appreciate the beauty of nature and use it as inspiration for original and unique designs. As she develops her concepts, Chini is dedicated to experimenting with diverse materials to create unique pieces that are thoughtful and elegant. She envisions these pieces as characters in a bright and colourful world, each moulded to have a different persona. Chini studio creates lighting fixtures and table top accessories, working with local suppliers and craftsmen to showcase Filipino talent, ingenuity and craftsmanship. In this way the Chini brand continues to evolve, reflecting the studio's culture of organic growth, sustainability and collaboration.

Lilianna Manahan — Lilianna Manahan

Lilianna Manahan studied art and design at Central Saint Martins in London and industrial design at the University of the Philippines. She later worked with Kenneth Cobonpue as part of his research and design team. In 2012, she began her own design practice Lilianna Manahan, and in 2014 she was recognised as one of the six Rising Asian Talents at the first Maison&Objet Asia. The study of process to highlight a craft is central to Lilianna's work. In the past, she used a wide range of materials, but now she focuses on metal, stone and ceramics, sometimes doing the finishes herself. The size of her works and installations ranges from the minuscule to large-scale. But whatever their size, her pieces pay attention to details, whether in their functional or artistic elements. Lilianna works and resides in Manila.

Viktoria Laguyo, Daniel Ubas — Krete Manila

Based in Marikina City in Metro Manila, Krete is a young and proud Filipino brand that specialises in handmade products made primarily from cement. The founders of the brand, Daniel Ubas and Viktoria Laguyo, started the company in 2016 while they were working in different roles within the design industry. Daniel initially gained experience in the production process, from the initial sketch all the way to the final product, while working at a kiosk production company. He then moved on to freelancing. Viktoria began her career as a Red Box Design Talent collaborating with furniture manufacturers in Cebu under the guidance of Budji Layug. Her works have been showcased at various exhibitions, including Manila FAME, the Salone del Mobile in Milan, and Maison&Objet in Paris. Both Daniel and Viktoria hold degrees in industrial design from the University of Santo Tomas in Manila, and it was their passion for Filipino craftsmanship that inspired them to establish a brand that would enable them to showcase their own skills and contribute to the growth of locally made products.

Joseph Rastrullo — Rastrullo

Born in the US and raised in the Philippines, Joseph Rastrullo studied in Milan, making him a third-culture designer who brings a multicultural vision to his creative aesthetic. Joseph began his design journey when he entered the industrial design programme at De La Salle–College of Saint Benilde. During his time there, he experimented with different materials and techniques before deciding to focus on fibres, resin, iron, wood and plastic, and their potential combinations. In 2009, he started an apprenticeship with architecture and design legend Antonio "Budji" Layug, who still mentors him to this day. In 2012, he enrolled in a Master's course in business design at Domus Academy in Milan. There, he met Domenico Dolce (Dolce & Gabbana), Andrea Branzi (Vitra Design Museum), Aldo Cibic (Memphis Group) and Stefano Giovannoni (Alessi). He also learned how to merge business and design to create a mutually beneficial system. Since returning to the Philippines, Joseph has set up his own production facility north of Manila. He has also been a featured designer at Manila FAME, one of Design Anthology Hong Kong's 100 Emerging Designers of Asia, and a Design Star at the International Furniture Fair Singapore.

SINGAPORE

Poh Yun Ru, Tan Wei Jing, Cynthia Chan — NUS Collective

Poh Yun Ru, Tan Wei Jing and Cynthia Chan are three designers who have honed their skills at the National University of Singapore (NUS). Poh Yun Ru works at the university's Design Incubation Centre, and believes that the best design starts from a small idea that slowly evolves into a story everyone can relate to. Tan Wei Jing is inspired by calmness and beauty, and explores in her works the interaction between negative spaces, geometric shapes and bold wireframes. Cynthia Chan believes that design is a bridge forming a relation and connection between people. Her work is based on finding inspiration in everyday experiences — conversations, objects and places. In her project *Furmidable*, she proposes the use of chiengora fibres, reinventing clipped dog hairs as a renewable and sustainable resource.

David Lee — I Am Not David Lee Studio

Drawing on his interest in both art and design, David Lee's practice regularly delves into the grey areas between the two disciplines. Much of the work he produces seeks to explore the untapped potential of familiar materials, encouraging them to behave in unfamiliar ways. This often requires disregarding conventional practice in art and design and introducing a dose of chaos into what are typically very structured processes. To the artist, experiment is an essential element in the creative process, and one that David relies on to transcend the limits of imagination. David has succeeded in establishing a career as both an artist and designer. In addition to staging a solo exhibition, he has completed several commissions for private collectors and spaces.

Lee Cheng-Kang — Mutou

Lee Cheng-Kang is an industrial designer who thinks that design should be simple yet intuitive and functional. He strongly believes that design has to be made accessible to everyone, and hopes that it can serve as a communication platform to bring everyone together. The concept of *Mutou* was born of the belief in a life that's lived with less, but not without all the things you love. It's about creating furniture that adapts to your life and allows you to move around it freely. Knowing how important it is to be able to put your feet up and read a book on your couch, but also how important it is for that same couch to be able to fit in with the rest of your decor when guests come over, Cheng-Kang has made sure that both things can happen with all his products.

Karyn Lim — Studio Karyn Lim

Karyn Lim is a designer specialising in industrial design and communications for design. Trained in industrial design with a focus on furniture, lifestyle objects and craft, Karyn has a conscious and collaborative approach, experimenting across a variety of materials. She has worked under the mentorship of renowned designers Erwan Bouroullec and Sabine Marcelis, and has designed for international brands including Marsotto, La Prairie, Samsung and Zanotta. In addition to her work with Studio Karyn Lim, she manages communications at furniture brand IndustryPlus and teaches design in the School of Art, Design and Media at the Nanyang Technological University.

Jun Ze Lim — Commune Lifestyle

Jun Ze Lim is a furniture and product designer at Singaporean furniture and home furnishings company Commune Lifestyle. A graduate in industrial and product design from LASALLE College of the Arts, he previously worked as a design assistant at HBA/Hirsch Bedner Associates and Studio F. A. Porsche. He exhibited at the International Furniture Fair Singapore in 2016 and the Stockholm Furniture Fair in 2019. Established in 2011, Commune draws inspiration from home trends around the world to craft high-quality artisanal works for design-savvy customers. The brand encapsulates quiet modernity, unifying function, form and craftsmanship to create stylish furniture for modern city apartments.

Tan Wei Xiang

Tan Wei Xiang graduated in spatial and product design from LASALLE College of the Arts. After graduation, he worked as a carpenter, making furniture from trees grown specifically in Singapore — including species such as African mahogany, rain tree and tembusu, which had all been given a second life amid Singapore's rapid development. Wei Xiang also worked as a technical executive in the School of Design at Temasek Polytechnic. One of his recent works is Recollect Cabinet, a piece representing the functional and emotional connections to everyday objects, guided by the themes of touch, conversations and different thought processes. The piece was designed for Discovered, a platform created by Wallpaper* and the American Hardwood Export Council, and was unveiled at the Design Museum in London in 2021. Wei Xiang currently works as a design modeller for Dyson.

Melvin Ong — Desinere

Melvin Ong studied furniture design at Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts and product design at Central Saint Martins in London, before founding his design studio Desinere in 2012. The name of the studio comes from the Latin word desinere, meaning "stop", which is also the root of the English word silence. For Melvin, stopping at the roots of silence is what enables an individual to take the sensory measure of the world. Ironically, in the state of being detached from our surroundings we become more attuned and sensitive to them, and through this momentary solace we begin to make subtle discoveries. In this way Desinere approaches design through a quiet reflection of relationships between items, people and experiences, creating authentic objects that are refreshingly unexpected. The studio believes that design is a holistic entity which encompasses different disciplines, as well as a continuing journey of experimentation and discovery that is not simply limited by labels.

Jarrold Lim — Jarrold Lim Design

Jarrold Lim grew up with a wide diversity of cultural influences. Born to a Singaporean father and Australian mother, he was raised in Melbourne, where he trained in industrial design. After graduation, he moved to Milan to work with Patricia Urquiola, one of the most sought-after designers in the world. He then worked for SCP, one of the UK's top design and furniture manufacturers, before returning to Melbourne, where he had a brief stint as a design lecturer. In 2007, Jarrold moved to Singapore, where he continued to build on his European experience while allowing himself to be influenced by his new surroundings. In particular, local manufacturing allowed him to initiate self-directed projects that have now been licensed to many well-known international clients, creating opportunities to explore the potential of mass production for a global audience. Jarrold continues to search for new and interesting projects with clients that are open to fresh thinking and looking for innovative solutions balancing the purely aesthetic with the technical.

Genevieve Ang, Georgina Foo — Gin&G

Genevieve Ang and Georgina Foo are co-founders of Gin&G, a studio dedicated to imbuing the spaces we inhabit with beauty and meaning. Genevieve, also known as "gellyvieve", is a creator, artist and architectural designer who believes in understanding construction through the act of making and experimenting. Currently researching how to incorporate glass waste into tile-making under the Good Design Research grant funded by DesignSingapore Council, she seeks to draw experiences from her art and ceramics practice so that her different disciplines can guide each other and form new languages along the way. Georgina, meanwhile, is an architecturally trained interior designer whose approach to design is inspired by anthropology — in particular, the study of the human condition and the cataloguing of obsessions and desires. She believes that beauty is found in the balance of boldness and restraint, and that no detail is too minute to celebrate. Gin&G is active in the fields of industrial design, residential dwellings and commercial interiors. Committed to the art of storytelling through space, the studio celebrates the uniqueness of each project through the creation of experimental artworks and design objects.

Cindy Evangeline

Cindy Evangeline is a graduating student of industrial and product design at the National University of Singapore. She is currently developing her thesis around the modernisation of craft techniques, with the idea of light as a material and traditional Indonesian crafts as a reference. Cindy takes inspiration from the Javanese/Balinese craft of janur, which she knows from her childhood in Indonesia. Janur means "divine light", and janur crafts are used in various festivities as they signify prayers and blessings travelling between the earth and the heavens in the form of light. Cindy has connected this symbolism with the typology of a paper lantern, and has experimented with contemporary optic fibres with the aim of creating a lighting product that harmoniously blends all three aspects of her project. Sandwiching sandblasted optic fibres between papers of differing thickness has proved promising, and Cindy plans to use this as a basis for the creation of various forms extracted from the traditional janur. In this way, she hopes to produce her own take on the paper lantern — a Southeast Asian version of the Noguchi Akari lamps lit by optic fibres.

Tiffany Loy — Tiffany Loy

Tiffany Loy is a Singaporean artist trained in industrial design in Singapore and textile-weaving in Kyoto. She graduated from the Royal College of Art in London with an MA in textiles, specialising in weaving. In 2018, she received the DesignSingapore Scholarship, and the following year she won the Design Anthology Award for Textiles. Since founding her studio in 2014, Tiffany has exhibited her experimental works at venues such as Singapore Art Museum, the Kyoto Municipal Museum of Art and Triennale Milano. Her background in product and textile design has led to her unique approach in creating materials with minute details, while keeping in mind their overall impact in the larger, spatial context.

Hans Tan — Hans Tan Studio

Hans Tan is a designer and educator whose work tiptoes on the boundaries between design, craft and art. He believes that design not only helps us to “do” but also to “understand”, and his practice deploys design as a medium, making use of utility as a pretext for visual discourse. A three-time Design of the Year recipient of the President*s Design Award (P*DA) Singapore, Hans received the P*DA 2018 Designer of the Year for his outstanding body of work as a designer and educator. His works have been shown in exhibitions such as SINGLETOWN at the Venice Biennale, Surface art/design in Dortmund and Cologne, and Local Icons. East/West at MAXXI in Rome. They are also held in private and corporate collections, as well as in permanent public collections at the National Collection of Singapore; the M+ museum in Hong Kong; the Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum in New York; and the Princessehof National Museum of Ceramics in Leeuwarden in the Netherlands. Hans is an associate professor in the Division of Industrial Design at the National University of Singapore, where in 2019 he received the Outstanding Educator Award.

Timo Wong, Priscilla Lui — Studio Juju

Studio Juju is a design studio founded in 2009 by Timo Wong and Priscilla Lui. Its projects include office designs for agencies, experiential interiors for commercial and residential properties, public furniture, art sculptures, furniture and object designs. The studio designs with fresh perspectives and emotional connection in mind, creating spaces, furniture, objects and art intervention with thoughtful consideration of human experiences. Each project is a union of simplicity and warmth, utility and whimsy, refinement and relevance. In 2011, Studio Juju was named one of the Designers of the Future by Design Miami/ Basel, based on a body of work that demonstrates originality in the creative process and a high level of refinement in the finished pieces, and also for its noteworthy contribution to contemporary design discourse. In 2014, the studio’s Rabbit & the Tortoise Collection for Living Divani won Design of the Year at the President*s Design Award Singapore, for offering a fresh perspective and demonstrating delicate design sensibility.

Genevieve Ang, Jenevieve Woon — Othersupply

Othersupply is a collaboration between Genevieve Ang and Jenevieve Woon. Genevieve, also known as “gellyvieve”, is a designer and artist working in the fields of ceramics and the spatial arts who tends to ask questions that cannot be answered. Stumbling on clay at the age of ten and eventually being architecturally trained, she sees her practice as a form of play where she world-builds for and from the inner child within. Fascinated with ideograms, emojis and the evolution of languages, she is constantly searching for new forms to simplify the world around us. Jenevieve, meanwhile, is a designer with a formal education in industrial design from Central Saint Martins in London and the Rhode Island School of Design in the US. She worked as a fashion designer in New York for several years before returning home to Singapore and launching her eponymous design studio in 2021. Jenevieve’s work examines the confluence between art and function and is driven by a deep love for exploring materials. Her explorations in ceramics are a cathartic pursuit aimed at finding joy and new possibilities with clay.

Emily Sim — Superstructure

Emily Sim is a co-founder, along with Pan Yi Cheng, of Superstructure — a design-to-fabrication consultancy with a focus on computational design and design for manufacturing and assembly. Innovation, experimentation and research are at the core of what the company does. Its aim is to bridge the gap between challenging design concepts and their physical realisations, expanding the possibilities beyond traditional techniques by implementing integrated workflows that address design intent, aesthetics, materiality, technical performance and construction efficiency. With its in-house fabrication facilities and network of industry partners, Superstructure serves a range of disciplines, from art and architecture to industrial design. Its services include design rationalisation, development and detailing; preparation of fabrication-ready drawings and models; development of prototypes and 1:1 mock-ups; and one-off and small-batch manufacturing. Emily and Pan Yi believe that through community engagement, they can discover new ways of thinking about form, function and fabrication, and they are keen to embark on research projects, workshops and seminars with universities and industry partners alike.

THAILAND

Pakphum “Nanu” Youttananukorn — Republic Nanu

Pakphum “Nanu” Youttananukorn is an artist, designer and maker. His work encompasses functional art, furniture pieces and installations, all predominantly made out of wood, and investigates the intentions, traditions and mythologies embedded within the pre-existing objects and places. Having graduated from the London College of Communication in 2007, Nanu worked as a graphic designer for several years before enrolling on a Master’s programme in social design at Design Academy Eindhoven in the Netherlands. He now lives in Bangkok, where he runs a woodworking studio and teaches in the International Program in Design and Architecture at Chulalongkorn University. Nanu is involved in various design collaborations both locally and internationally, most recently in Spain and Hungary. He is also a co-founder of the Grains and Grams design collective and the Rocket Trail project, as well as a member of the Fictional Collective network.

Shoson Thatawakorn — Ausara

Shoson Thatawakorn majored in product design in the School of Architecture, Art and Design at King Mongkut’s Institute of Technology Ladkrabang in Bangkok. He worked for 11 years as a product designer for Alexander Lamont, before establishing Ausara Surface & Textile with textile designer Jarupatcha Achavasmit in 2013. Based in the outskirts of Bangkok, Ausara now employs nine craftsmen and weavers to create handmade collections of textiles and wall coverings designed by the two owners. Combining traditional Thai craft with innovative fabrication techniques, Ausara brings unconventionality and a passion for exploration to its fabric and surface collections, offering a modern reinterpretation of the traditional use of precious metals in textiles. The company has already gained international recognition with large-scale installations for Shangri-La Singapore, The Den Bengaluru and Four Seasons Bangkok, and the team continues to reinvent the textile industry with ephemeral, otherworldly creations that push the limits of metal art and attract a steady stream of clients looking for something extraordinary.

Yongphan Sundara-Vicharana, Apiradee Thairat — Fabuless

Yongphan Sundara-Vicharana and Apiradee Thairat both graduated in industrial design at King Mongkut’s Institute of Technology Ladkrabang in 2017. In the same year, they founded Fabuless, a Bangkok-based design studio that aims to create extraordinary designs. At Fabuless, Yongphan and Apiradee study the working patterns and lives of ordinary people with a view to making them different from what they were. For them, the result is not unusual in terms of performance, and the feeling that it’s extraordinary is not normal.

Saran Yen Panya — 56thStudio

Saran Yen Panya is the founder of 56thStudio, a pop-art-inspired creative agency offering a range of marketing materials that involve creating, curating, distributing and amplifying content so that it's inspiring to a clearly defined audience group. A graduate of Konstfack (the University of Arts, Crafts and Design in Stockholm), where he studied storytelling, Saran Yen works with all kinds of narrative methods — from graphic, textile and animation to furniture and food and drinks. 56thStudio comprises several creative units that form one think tank with a solid goal in mind: to tell good stories that last. The studio also runs a private gallery dedicated to visual design, with drinks tailored to the theme of each exhibition. Located in the heart of Bangkok, the gallery aims to promote upcoming designers and makers through carefully curated events.

Panisa Khunprasert

Panisa Khunprasert studied industrial design at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, before relocating to New York to complete a Master of Fine Arts degree in products of design. She worked as a designer for her family's wooden-toy company while developing her own line of wooden fashion and interior accessories. Influenced by her family's business, she focused on children's learning and playing experiences for many of her earlier projects. Panisa presented her work at Tokyo Designer Week 2014, and many of her designs have since been distributed in trade fairs throughout Europe and Asia. A lover of fashion and lifestyle, Panisa is inspired by the art, nature and cultures she has encountered on her travels.

Decha Archjananun, Ploypan Theerachai — THINKK Studio

Decha Archjananun and Ploypan Theerachai are the founders of THINKK Studio, a design practice that hails from Bangkok. Decha has a Master of Advanced Studies in design for luxury and craftsmanship at the Ecole Cantonale d'Art de Lausanne in Switzerland, while Ploypan has a Master of Fine Arts degree in spatial design from Konstfack — Stockholm's University of Arts, Crafts and Design. THINKK Studio began as a double act in 2011, with Decha and Ploypan reacting to what they saw as a lack of internationally recognised products from Thai designers at the time. Since then, the studio has grown into a team of ten young designers working on a range of projects, from furniture pieces and product designs to installations in hotels, department stores and exhibitions. The studio's goal is to create timeless designs that create an interesting and appealing legacy, and the designers always keep in mind the multidimensional impact of their works on consumers, taking into consideration the market, the public, relevant communities and the environment.

Ada Chirakranont, Worapong Manupipatpong — Atelier 2+

Thai-born, Swedish-trained Ada Chirakranont and Worapong Manupipatpong founded Bangkok-based creative studio Atelier 2+ in 2010. Since then, the studio has received international recognition in architecture, art, craft and design. Ada and Worapong feel they work best when blurring the line between the subjectivity of fine art and the objectivity of design. This is reflected in the studio's approach towards furniture design, which reaches beyond the view of furniture as a stand-alone product, articulating it instead as a tool for shaping user experience in a furnished space.

Charnon Nakornsang — Nakornsang Studio

Charnon Nakornsang has been following his passion for woodcraft since 2013, when he began a residence at the studio of Phisanu Numsiriyothin, an established furniture maker and a specialist in the field of Thai woodcraft techniques. Since then, he has continued to expand his practice, building his own studio as well as developing his own ideas and techniques. Charnon's philosophy is to lend voice to the material, keeping its essence. With this sensibility in mind, he focuses his design on the beauty of construction and the sense of proportion. In 2018, Charnon started building his home gallery, which has since become a place where he cultivates "warmness", derived from a deep sense of connection between human and wood. At the root of the Buddhist worldview, the way of life is inseparable from the law of nature, and poetry and art are embedded in everything. Charnon believes that by observing closely, nature can heal the human soul.

Teerapoj Teeropas — Kitt-Ta-Khon

Teerapoj Teeropas is design director at Kitt-Ta-Khon, a Bangkok-based studio providing original and customised handwoven furniture and interior finishings with a modern design. An industrial designer with an interest in craftwork, he is guided in his design practice by the goal of postponing the loss of traditional values. With a focus on the incorporation of local wisdom into contemporary industrial design, Teeropas aims to perpetuate the values of traditional knowledge and creation. Believing that handicraft is a valuable world heritage that does not belong to any one group of people, he sees his work as exploring new boundaries and aesthetics in traditional crafts. In this way, he hopes to contribute to diversity of identity and to cultural and artistic resemblance, fusing the heart of craftsmanship to create a set of newly designed products that relay a borderless cultural heritage which can be appreciated by anyone.

Saruta "PiN" Kiatparkpoom — PiN Metal Art

Saruta "PiN" Kiatparkpoom is a Bangkok-based artist and designer who transforms steel to make art objects and home decoration items. Growing up in a family that owned a steel company, she has a degree in fine arts from Srinakharinwirot University and a Master's degree in applied art from Silpakorn University, both in Bangkok. Her primary passion is to recycle worthless steel debris into valuable home decor products. To realise this passion, she participated in the Creative Young Designer project, which allowed her to experiment with new ideas and techniques. The mission of PiN Metal Art is not only to give new life to waste by transforming it into something of beauty and value, but also to give new life to welders by offering them an honourable craft that they can perform with dignity and pride. In this way, the company envisages not only the reincarnation of waste but also that of Thai craftspeople.

Apiwat Chitapanya

Apiwat Chitapanya is a furniture designer with a Master's degree in applied art from Silpakorn University in Bangkok. His main design concept is “furniture beyond function” — the blending of art and design to create a product with a unique identity. For this reason, he thinks carefully about not only the function of his furniture, but also how he can add aesthetic value to it. Stainless steel, iron, brass and wood are the main materials for Apiwat's furniture, enabling him to depict stories in his designs that are inspired by nature. By using natural shapes and redesigning them to form contemporary and surreal furniture, Apiwat hopes to appeal to the users' sense of fantasy. Since each piece of furniture is handmade by skilled craftsmen, it's more like a work of art than a piece of functional furniture. This is certainly the case with the Ink Collection of furniture pieces he created for sustainable-wood brand Masaya, where he used the process of lost-wax casting to emulate Chinese ink painting.

Anon Pairot — ANON PAIROT DESIGN STUDIO

Anon Pairot is an acclaimed furniture and product designer who graduated from King Mongkut's University of Technology North Bangkok with a degree in mechanical design. In 2007, he founded the ANON PAIROT DESIGN STUDIO, a design consultancy and creative strategic planning agency based in Bangkok. Anon provides interior design with a focus on sustainability, and in addition to his commercial practice for local and international clients, he has worked with the government to promote Thai design. Named Young Designer of the Year at the 2015 Elle Decor International Design Awards, he believes that design is “the art of changing people's valuation process” and, to a certain extent, their quality of life. Anon is also active as an artist and gallerist. His artwork deals with the value placed on status symbols such as fashion accessories, cars and even weapons. One of his latest ventures is Schemata, a design-centric art gallery in Bangkok showcasing Thai artists.

VIETNAM

Phong Thien Thu My

Phong Thien Thu My is a designer based in Ho Chi Minh City. She makes lamps out of kombucha, a unique new organic material which she makes herself. Phong does not collaborate with any craftspeople or factories, so the manufacturing process for all the lamps is completed by her alone.

Huyen Trang Nguyen — Trang Nguyen

Huyen Trang Nguyen is an interiors and furniture designer based in Ho Chi Minh City, where she graduated from the University of Architecture in 2019. She won First Prize in the Hoa Mai Furniture Design Competition, co-organised by the American Hardwood Export Council, in 2018. In the same year, she was also one of the winners of the Creative ASEAN Furniture Design Contest. Trang has always been fascinated by traditional Vietnamese furniture, and this is the reason behind her aspiration to renew traditional values.

Thomas Vincent — Bang

Thomas Vincent is the creative design manager for Bang, a designers and makers' house which now has an integrated design lab and seven in-house workshops in Ho Chi Minh City. United by a passion for design and creation, Bang's interdisciplinary team of French and Vietnamese specialists come together to design, research, develop and manufacture furniture and lighting products.

Thanh Tam Nguyen Tran — Tam's Studio

Thanh Tam Nguyen Tran, the founder of Tam's Studio, designs and creates screens using a heat presser on nylon sheets, which she then smoothes on wooden frames to complete the products.

Clover Pham, Neo Nguyen — NEO Studio

Clover Pham and Neo Nguyen are, respectively, the design director and creative director of NEO Studio, a full-service industrial design firm based in Ho Chi Minh City. With a mission of combining minimalist design with Vietnamese soul, the studio creates beautiful, functional products, specialising in innovative, customised solutions for clients across a wide range of industries, from consumer electronics to medical devices. NEO has a long history of designing and developing projects, from concept development and product design through engineering and prototyping to manufacturing. Its client list includes Kinis Barefoot, Earable, EVN Vietnam and Scooterson.

Nghiem Vu

Nghiem Vu is an interior-design graduate with a love of creating and exploring spaces. His approach is always to orient himself to explore and identify the problems and needs of contemporary society, and then find ways to solve and meet those needs through his own artistic perspective in order to create suitable products that bring a little fun to each person's living space. After graduating, Vu joined District Eight, a furniture company in Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC), as a designer. He also continued to research and develop designs independently, exploring and developing his individual design philosophy. In 2022, he entered a design for a Loom sofa into the Hoa Mai Furniture Design Competition, co-organised by the Handicraft and Wood Industry Association of HCMC.

Yen Nguyen Kim

Yen Nguyen Kim designs and makes lamps.