

Appendix I

About the creative context of craft and design in Taiwan and A New Layer Collection : 7 designers have explored various facets of the Taiwanese craftsmanship

Anton Alvarez (Sweden-Chile), Studio Bcxsy (Japan-Israel), Sebastian Herkner (Germany), Jin Kuramoto (Japan), Wonmin Park (Korea) and Julie Richoz (Switzerland-France)

1- Intro of Koji Pottery

The Chiayi county is hosting this colourful Koji Pottery that the Japanese refer to as 'Chiayi Pottery,' knowing that all the masters learn their techniques applied to the temples in this region of Taiwan. The low temperature glazed pottery was mainly used for wall decorations and sculptures inside or outside the temples, especially on the rooftops to represent the gods and symbols.

New Koji Pottery Collection

Designer : Anton Alvarez (Sweden-Chile) & Craftsmen : Chen, Zhong-Zheng / Hsiao, Chi-Li (Taiwan)

Alvarez was inspired by the forms and symbols, as well as the handmade process that has been kept alive at Koji pottery thanks to the factory and to the museum. He has created four different shapes of contemporary vases revisiting the classical forms of the traditional Koji bestiary made of dragons, elephants, and tigers... The fauna and flora taken from the temple language and iconography have definitively been his source of inspiration. Modelled, cut and deformed to slightly become both decorative and functional pieces, his vases are freestanding and find their own visual and physical balance while modelling the clay before drying and firing it. Alvarez has chosen to spray the glaze on his pieces and fire them at high temperatures, which gives them a very colourful glossy and unexpected look. This dynamic process of spraying on the vases is quite typical of Alvarez who wants to go beyond the ordinary in order to reach more random and surprising surface effects.

2- Intro of bamboo bending

Bamboo is an environmental friendly, natural composite material which has been used in Asia for centuries. It has been explored in a more artistic style applying heat to bend the slender pieces of bamboo. By picking up the right bamboo, removing the knots and the oil, drying and preserving it, by cutting, sawing, carving, gouging, heating, inserting, gluing, assembling and nailing, the pieces of furniture have been achieved in a very artisanal way.

The Bridge Bamboo Bench

Designer : Sebastian Herkner (Germany) & Craftsman : Wu, Ming-An (Taiwan)

During the visit, Herkner was inspired by the number of bridges over the country. His design translates the idea of the bridge connecting people and cultures. Made in collaboration with the highly skilful bamboo bending master Wu, Ming-An. Most of the bamboo bending furniture has its own limited with closed loop in order to hold the structure. The challenge of this design aims to replace it with the arched form from bridges to maintain the same function, but keep it simple at the same time. It's also the largest piece of bamboo bending furniture that craftsman ever challenged himself.

The Indigo-Dyed Bamboo Chair

Designer : Jin Kuramoto (Japan) & Craftsman : Lin, Jian Cheng (Taiwan), Tang, Wen-Chun (Taiwan)

By combining both the handmade bamboo bending process to the natural indigo-dyed technique normally applied to textiles, the Japanese designer Kuramoto has conceived a new kind of furniture

typology. Employing bamboo bending, which is certainly one of the highest quality technique in Taiwan, Kuramoto tailors a new kind of seating. His elegant and refined chair is also simplified in terms of bamboo weaving and refresh the traditional look of the Asian furniture style. It reinforces the aesthetics and sustainability of the chair and introduces a sense of tactility and comfort. Using 2 meters long bamboo pieces that are bent and assembled.

3- Intro of the ceramics

Yingge is an artistic town in Taiwan which is specialized in ceramics. Located in the Southwest of Taipei City, it belongs to the Taipei County. Considered as Taiwan's ceramic landmark, Yingge's fame is renowned for more than two centuries. Since 2000, the Yingge Ceramics Museum is promoting both traditional and contemporary ceramics from pottery to porcelain, highlighting the history and modernity of the local artists and factories. Yingge is also famous worldwide thanks to its Taiwan Ceramics Biennale founded in 2004.

The Fruit Tower

Design : BCXSY - Boaz Cohen & Sayaka Yamamoto (Israel/Netherlands–Japan) & Craftsman : Zhong, Jian-Fu

BCXSY have found their inspiration while exploring the vast collection of the National Palace Museum and being drawn to the numerous artifacts shaped as natural elements - from rocks to plants and animals. The somehow surreal characteristics of those objects was also found back in the colorful, exotic displays of seasonal fruits, often observed in juice shops. Their Fruit Tower is a playful combination of what they saw at the museum and what they experienced in real life situations. Working with the craftsman, Jian-Fu Zhong, has allowed them to explore the ceramic craft further and to achieve The Fruit Tower and its variations by finding out – thanks to the moulding process beforehand – the right balance between the shape of the fruit as they become more and more abstract and beautified with jade-like colours while being glazed. All of those Fruit Towers will become functional objects like candle holders... referring to iconic vegetal shapes in homage to Taiwan's culinary symbols, traditions and contemporary life.

The Clay Table

Design: Wonmin Park (South Korea) & Craftsman: Wen-Yi, Kung (Taiwan)

With his experimentation with new materials, Park maintains for A New Layer the same exploratory approach. Matching material investigation with architectonic and metaphysical qualities, Park attempts to attain the sublime. Pared-down and essential forms are fused with treated materials; his work is often the result of extensive research and experimentation. As both furniture application and sculpture, his works stand alone and speak for themselves. Inspired by the principals of minimalism, Park seeks to create pieces that capture the nuances of light, colour and depth. With the Clay Table, Park explores large scale ceramics with the craftsman, Wen-Yi, Kung. He found a very unique quality to start experimenting with the large scale pottery which has good qualities in glazing and finishing. Clay matches with his own design language and Park likes to test and start communicating more closely with the craftsman in order to achieve high end result in line with what he has already done in metal through his recent Plain Cuts Collection for Carpenters Workshop Gallery (Paris-London-New York). The Clay Table can be both indoor and outdoor. It's a new challenge for him to work with this new kind of material in a new wave that fascinates him.

4- Intro of lacquer

The Lacquer Art Studio at NTCRI run by Chin-Mei Huang has become the main workshop for finalizing the prototypes by Julie Richoz. This is a workshop where experimental research can be operated in close collaboration with other high-end craftsmanship.

The Cong Collection

Design : Julie Richoz (Switzerland – France) & Craftsman : Huang, Chin-Mei (Taiwan)

Richoz discovered the Cong vase at the National Palace Museum and was really fascinated by its shape. She felt in it a very contemporary and timeless design, and was impressed by its aura. She decided to reinterpret the Cong vase by using lacquerware. Having never seen this shape with very sharp edges made using the traditional techniques, she knew in advance that it would be a very challenging as well as rewarding experience if she could achieve it. Her main objective has been to create the sharpest appearance including the corners of the lacquerware. The Cong Collection is composed of three archetypal pieces: a high vase, a box and a tray, tableware elements that play with this game between the circle and the rectangle. This quest for universal shapes allows Richoz to have a better flow of understanding with the craftsman she works with, Huang, Chin-Mei. The lacquer is also capturing the natural light in a very organic way thanks to its successive layers. By using black lacquer, she reinforces the deepness and the eternal aura of this material used for centuries in Extreme Asia.

Appendix II

About the art director and the designers

Lise Coirier (France – Belgium)

Founder, publisher and editor-in-chief of TlMag (°2009), Lise Coirier is running her Creative Design Consultancy Pro Materia since 1999 between Brussels and Paris, which actively promotes contemporary art and design. With Masters in Management & Finance and History of Art, she is also the driving force behind many specialist projects in her field of expertise, acts as art director for private and institutional clients and is often speaker at conference while curating new concepts and exhibitions. She has opened since April 2016 Spazio Nobile Gallery in Brussels with her partner Gian Giuseppe Simeone that is specialized in contemporary applied arts, design and photography and organizes four to five exhibitions per year. She also participates to fairs like Art Elysées/FIAC (Paris, FR), Collect (London, UK), Collectible (Brussels, BE)...

www.promateria.org

www.tlmagazine.com, @tlmag

www.spazionobile.com, @spazionobilegallery

Anton Alvarez (Sweden – Chile)

He could have been a cabinet maker, but he has become one of the most influential and innovative creators of his generation. After studying interior architecture and furniture at Konstfack (Sweden) and receiving a graduate degree from the Royal College of Art in London in 2012, Swedish-Chilean artist and designer Anton Alvarez is continuously experimenting and building his own tools and machines for achieving unexpected and unprecedented forms with clay, textiles and more. Though he is based in Stockholm, he travels around the world and has already had solo shows at Salon 94 in New York and more recently at Frieze in London, the Xue Xue Institute in Taipei and former Gallery Libby Sellers in London. His recent and appropriately named *Unexpected* exhibition at Christian Larsen Gallery in Stockholm shows how his work requires full control, but is also based on a relatively ungovernable experimental process. As both a mental and physical statement, his Alphabet Aerobics sculptures are influencing his approach Koji Pottery and demonstrate their visual strength and power.

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BCXSY (Israel – Japan)

Based in Amsterdam, Boaz Cohen (Israel/Netherlands) and Sayaka Yamamoto (Japan) founded their interdisciplinary cooperative studio in 2007. Offering a balanced combination of two unique talents, BCXSY carries a wide range of projects both in The Netherlands and abroad. It puts emphasis on personal experience, human interaction and emotional awareness. Their award-winning work has been featured on the world's most prestigious events and has been exhibited in galleries and museums, such as the V&A in London that acquired their Join Screen, the In Between Glassware at Shanghai Glass museum and New Perspectives at the TextielMuseum in Tilburg. With an approach that is playfully deliberate, BCXSY never fails to surprise and inspire. The studio has among its partners and clients: H. Stern, J. & L. Lobmeyr, Philips Lighting, Spazio Rossana Orlandi, Domaine de Boisbucet, Wallpaper*, Calico Wallpaper...

[@bcxsy](http://www.studiobcxsy)

Sebastian Herkner (Germany)

Sebastian Herkner was born in Bad Mergentheim, Germany. He studied product design at the HfG Offenbach am Main (Offenbach University of Art and Design), already focusing during his studies on designing objects and furniture merging various cultural contexts, combining new technologies with traditional craftsmanship in order to highlight the multifaceted beauty of the materials and draw

renewed attention to small details. Whilst still a student, Herkner did an internship with Stella McCartney in London, which helped to hone his feeling for materials, colours, structures and textures. Since founding his own design studio in Offenbach am Main in 2006, he has designed products for manufacturers such as ClassiCon, Dedon, Fontana Arte, La Chance, Moroso, Pulpo, Rosenthal and Very Wood, as well as working on interior design projects and for exhibitions and museums. Since 2007 he has taught several courses at HfG Offenbach am Main as visiting lecturer. His designs have received multiple prizes, including the 2011 German Design Award in the Newcomer category, 2015 the EDIDA Award for Best International Newcomer and Guest of Honour at imm cologne 2016.

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Jin Kuramoto (Japan)

Born in Hyogo prefecture, Japan and graduated from Kanazawa College of Art, Department of Design, Kuramoto worked from 2000 until 2008 as in-house designer for various companies. He founded Jin Kuramoto Studio in Tokyo in 2008. The studio engages in various product design developments such as furniture, home electric appliances and daily necessities. With his singular design approach, Kuramoto Studio introduces the essence of things with a clear and distinctive expression. He has won many IF Design Awards, Good Design Awards, Elle Decor Young Designers Talent in 2012. Kuramoto is also lecturer for Kyoto University of Art and Design, Keio University SFC in Tokyo, Kanazawa College of Art and Musashino Art University, Tokyo. Among his clients in Japan: Meetee (design and art direction), Arflex Japan, Hukla, Jo Nagazaka /Schemata Architects, Tokyo Gas (JP), Naft, Ideaco, Mikamo, Offecct (Sweden)...

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Wonmin Park (Korea)

Wonmin Park was born in Seoul, South Korea and graduated from the Design Academy Eindhoven, in the Netherlands, in 2011. Thanks to Carpenters Workshop Gallery, he has exhibited at major fairs around the world such as Design Miami, PAD Paris, PAD London and Design Days Dubai. His work has been included in many museum shows like Korea Now at Musée des Arts Décoratifs, Paris, at the Triennale Design Museum, Milan and the National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Seoul. Park has set up his studio in Eindhoven and then his production facility in Rotterdam. He is now living and working in Paris.

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Julie Richoz (Switzerland – France)

Julie Richoz is a Swiss-French designer. After graduating from ECAL, Ecole Cantonale d'Art de Lausanne, she started working for Pierre Charpin as a project assistant. In 2012 she set up her design studio in Paris where she enjoys with curiosity and sensibility to develop her own language through objects. Richoz has won the "Grand Prix" of the Design Parade 2012 at the Villa Noailles. She was a designer-in-residency at Sèvres, Cite de la céramique, as well as at CIRVA, international research centre on arts and glass in Marseille, where she was given the chance to explore the materials and the savoir-faire behind them. The results of the residencies as well as a lamp developed with the support of the Galerie Kreo where it was exhibited at a touring solo show at Design Parade 8 in Hyères, imm Cologne, and the Paris Designer's Days. Besides her gallery work she collaborates with companies such as Alessi, Artecnic, Louis Poulsen and more recently Louis Vuitton. In 2015, she received a Swiss Design Award, which is the Switzerland's leading national design competition organized annually by the FOC (Federal Office of Culture) since 1918.

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