

habitus

#64

the future Guest Editor Brahman Perera Exceptional design

ISSUE FIVE OF SIX COLLECTABLES

Winnings x Habitus House of the Year

Palinda Kannangara

Studio ZAWA

SJB

Spirit Level

STUDIOLIVE

Park + Associates

Wutopia Lab

Yvonne Todd

Amy Lawrance

Kallie Blauhorn

Amy Vidler

Antonia Ellis

Fred Ganim

Streifen

ARKO

BMDO

Snelling Studio

Lof.

Floria Tosca



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habitusliving.com



lightbox #21

Beauty abounds

The curated interior

Layering with tonal shifts, sculptural form, and interesting pieces, the home interior celebrates art and craftsmanship across all aesthetics.



Completely lovely in stabilised antique bronze, the Kea bathroom collection from PITTELLA reflects the geometric design style of the Roman Doric order. Fusing materiality and craftsmanship to manifest the carefully observed details, Pittella has crafted a distinctive range of bathroom tapware.

pittella.com.au

When the massive Monterey pine outside Walsh Street by ROBIN BOYD died in 2019, the home's custodians, the Robin Boyd Foundation, commissioned furniture maker Aleksandra Pontonio to design Knot Pine, a chair with a massive history. The limited edition of 20 pieces celebrates 20 years of the Foundation, with funds going to its ongoing legacy. Photo, Michael Pham.

robinboyd.org.au



With verve and sculptural finesse, design studio BMDO, led by Fletcher Barns and James L. Marshall, is merging industrial design and fine art to explore playful, sociocultural ideas grounded in their diverse creative backgrounds. Every piece is a joy. Photo, Annika Kafcaloudis.

bmdo.net





Interior designer and artist ANTONIA ELLIS explores the somewhat-disdained practice of hyperrealism. Her practice however, explores her subject within a cathartic understanding of the heightened emotional state a space contains. Paused and temporary, evocative and compelling, the images are a simulacrum of the world of interiors, and something else besides. Antonia shows with Oigall Projects.

oigallprojects.com

Exploring old materials with new technologies, sustainable wild nettle has been used to create the new rugs from ClassiCon. These beautiful rugs present the avant-garde gouaches of mid-century iconic designer EILEEN GRAY. The nettle material creates a unique aesthetic, whereby the varying adsorption delivers a slightly iridescent colour effect combined with a silky sheen.

classicon.com





Whatever material FRED GANIM puts his hand to is pushed to the extremes of materiality. MASS, for example, takes a large cubic volume of marble and explores its reduction, subverting the material's inherent behaviours and creating an object of sublime beauty. Photo, Enrico Costantini.

fredganim.com

Collaboration when it is this good is breathtaking in its ability to push design in a whole new direction. The pairing of YASMINE GHONIE of YSG with BANKSTON has led to The Streaks, an extraordinary architectural hardware collection of coloured timber and patinated bronze door handles, levers, and pulls. Completely delicious!

bankston.com





Few true cornucopias exist, but MA HOUSE – SUPPLY STORE is a genuine treasure trove of interesting and peculiar pieces. Vintage and contemporary sit side by side, just waiting for a new context to give focus to their unique character. Moreover, everything is already curated so the selections are excellent.

mahousesupplystore.com.au

With sustainability at its heart, KING LIVING has established a brand ethos crafted on a foundation of environmentally cognisant design, a material palette crafted for longevity, a timeless aesthetic, and the belief in the ongoing legacy of quality and craftsmanship. Beautiful is just the beginning.

kingliving.com.au





Enduring quality

Sustainable, long lasting, crystalline silica-free and incredibly beautiful, Caesarstone Mineral Surfaces have always been ahead of the curve.

Since launching the Mineral collection with 33 designs, Caesarstone has recognised a shift towards an appreciation of the veining, striation and complex colouring of marble. Also noting a new-found love for warm, earthy tones, Caesarstone has responded, with six new designs added to the collection this year, and four more on the way.

Showcasing distinctive striations, earthy greys and browns, the expanded collection is highly attuned to current design preferences. Natural inclusions such as subtle organic sediments and mineral deposits have also come into play, with natural and raw aesthetics expanding the range.

Committed to producing sustainable surfaces that use natural materials and as much recycled content as possible, the Caesarstone ICON collection is the only mineral surface to offer a lifetime warranty. Recognised for its superior resistance to staining and wear, the collection delivers a highly durable surface that will retain its natural beauty even with rigorous daily use.

With names almost as beautiful as the surfaces, the new collection comprises: Celestial Sky, Calacatta Stillstorm, Rossa Nova, Lunar Frost, Glacier Flow and the impeccable Calacatta Dreamwave.

The warmth of Rossa Nova is outstanding. This beautiful surface pairs a warm white base with an overlay of complex veining in earthy hues of amber, taupe and deep golden ochre. Presenting as a highly tactile, natural surface with a polished finish, Rossa Nova is all about raw authenticity.

One of the most beautiful surfaces launched this year, Rossa Nova is a gorgeous sustainable choice. The Caesarstone ICON range has been independently tested to confirm it is free from Crystalline Silica and VOCs. Sustainability is built into the process, with more than 80% recycled materials used in each surface.

With a 38-year history of innovation, Caesarstone continues to lead the field with the expansion of its sustainable Caesarstone ICON, Advanced Mineral surface range. Moreover, with highly durable qualities that underpin the product's lifetime warranty, Caesarstone delivers a product that will stand the test of time

ABOVE
Rossa Nova, from the
Caesarstone ICON,
Advanced Mineral
surface range.

Meaning 'pure and sincere' in Japanese, Jun is a wholly fitting name for this sublime outdoor collection. Designed by Compasso d'Oro winner Marco Acerbis for TALENTI, the range delivers comfortable and elegant seating that plays with material dimensionality to clearly express the intrinsic beauty of timber.

talentispa.com



Presenting their inaugural collection at Melbourne Design Week as an exhibition titled *Seven Minutes in Heaven*, STREIFEN are a design force of strange and beautiful singularity. Draping metal fabrics, and setting a stage of rope tied fabrics, panel sewn curtains, and shimmering light, there is an otherworldliness to their work that sings. Photo, Tim Hardy.

streifen.co



Multidisciplinary practice SNELLING STUDIO, based in Aotearoa / New Zealand, was established as a collaboration between father and daughter Douglas and Bec Snelling. Now led by Bec, the studio employs both traditional and contemporary manufacturing techniques in collaboration with skilled local craftspeople to deliver extraordinary pieces of craftsmanship and materiality.

snellingstudio.com



The creative partnership between LAMINEX and Tom Mark Henry, showcasing Laminex True to Nature: Next Generation Woodgrains, redefines material authenticity by capturing the tonal depth, grain detail, and natural tactility of real timber, without compromise. Photo, Lillie Thompson.

laminex.com.au

Tokyo-based ARKO's creative approach to traditional craft has increasingly seen her work lauded. Her most recent work in straw explores the use of this natural material with age-old techniques bringing fading customs back into modern life. For her recent exhibition with Somewhere Tokyo, she imbues each length of straw with a linear quality in a method she likens to drawing.

Image, ARKO, *A fire shadow in a desert*, 2023. Photo courtesy the artist and Somewhere Tokyo.

ariko.jp





AMY VIDLER is an artist and designer handcrafting unique lighting objects in a practice of precise craftsmanship and artful randomness. Her pieces, with their light-filled warmth and texture, are intended to bring joy both in the crafting and the beholding. Photo, Edwina Richards.

amyvidler.com.au



Defined by curved volumes, modular adaptability and understated elegance, the Ernest Collection by Jean-Marie Massaud, now available at POLIFORM, brings sculptural comfort and understated luxury to any living space. At the heart of the collection is the Ernest sofa – a generous, low-slung design with deconstructed feather-down cushioning and the ability to configure into linear, corner or L-shaped compositions.

poliformaustralia.com.au

Gorgeously made in Aotearoa / New Zealand, the LOF. range of acoustic dampening woollen lighting aligns with the concept of a 'fibershed' approach, promoting fair economic practices and soil enhancement. "Our goal is to establish a viable textile supply chain that sets a new standard for addressing the environmental crisis," say Lof. principals Sophie Poelman and Alain Brideson.

lof.nz





Designed by GEOFFREY BAWA in 1967, the Bentota Lounge Chair was designed for the Bentota Beach Hotel (now Cinnamon Bentota Beach), a Sri Lankan resort Bawa designed in the late 1960s. Bawa's reinterpretation of the traditional verandah chair removes the armrests while maintaining its relaxed, cooling effect and fostering a more open interaction between those seated alongside. Photo, Martien Mulder.

phantomhands.in

Handcrafted at BRICKWORKS' carbon-neutral Longford plant in Tasmania, the Daniel Robertson 470 Collection presents a long-format clay brick range designed to deliver timeless elegance and lasting performance. Reflecting a commitment to sustainable production, the made-to-order model reduces waste and supports bespoke project requirements. Each brick delivers a contemporary aesthetic without compromising the artisan tactility that remains a hallmark of Daniel Robertson bricks.

brickworks.com.au







Underfoot luxury

Celebrating European oak at its finest,
Royal Oak Floors is delighted to introduce two
new ranges: the Heritage and Natural Collections.

Crafted from single-origin oak, these engineered floors are sustainable, beautiful, and above all, an experience of sublime underfoot luxury.

The Heritage and Natural Collections by Royal Oak Floors offer two distinct expressions of engineered oak flooring. Heritage is inspired by traditional techniques and rustic charm, while Natural is featured by an effortless, contemporary aesthetic. As such, whether your interior design is aligned to the Wabi-sabi elements of perfect imperfections, or the calm minimalist look, Royal Oak Floors' new Heritage and Natural Collections are perfect artisan solutions for Australian spaces, lifestyles and sensibilities.

Finished to emphasise grains and knots the Heritage Collection celebrates the rich imperfections inherent within each board. Drawing inspiration from time-honoured woodworking methods, including a unique circular sanding technique, its earthy and characterful aesthetic is reminiscent of well-appointed whisky bars and authentic farmhouses.

Inviting you to bask in the warm glow of another time and place, the Heritage collection is explored with Royal Oak Floors Feature grading. This is Royal Oak's most character-filled grading option, with frequent and large knots, and

significant grain variation beautifully resolved to create a naturally aged appearance. Undulating and beautiful in its inconsistencies, the Heritage Collection looks intentionally lived-in, as though it was laid a hundred years ago. Moreover, the final coating of oxidative lacquer, which hardens the surface through an oxidation process, gives the flooring a durable surface with a soft, velvety finish, just made for bare feet.

Available in four colours and long lengths, the Heritage Collection boards come in a 19mm thickness and 250mm and 300mm widths.

Developed in consultation with Australia's top architects and designers, the fine Natural Collection delivers an effortless, contemporary aesthetic. This quiet and elegant collection presents a refined and creative foundation to suit an endless array of modern interior expressions.

The Natural Collection is part of the Premium grade range, with each board rigorously graded for consistency to achieve a uniformity that is calm, relaxing, and visually refined. Finished with an oxidative lacquer, the Natural Collection delivers the raw beauty of an oiled floor, but with enhanced durability. Unlike traditional finishes, this innovative air-dried process provides a soft, breathable coating that looks and feels more

natural. Again, perfect for underfoot and in tune with the barefoot luxury of the Australian lifestyle.

Designed specifically for the more minimal natural interior, where flow and versatility are paramount, the Natural collection is available in seven colours with longer and wider boards (up to 300mm wide and 3000mm long in both 15mm and 20mm thicknesses).

When selecting or specifying flooring, Royal Oak Floors are the environmentally responsible choice. Formaldehyde-free and rated E0, the Natural and Heritage Collections support healthier indoor environments. Rejecting commonly used harsh chemicals and artificial wood treatments, the collections support personal wellbeing, and all Royal Oak Floors timber components are sourced from FSC-certified forests. This stance ensures that all timber used in the

production of its flooring is managed in line with rigorous standards that support sustainable forestry, that it protects biodiversity, and respects the rights of Indigenous peoples, workers, and local communities.

Two decades ago, Royal Oak Floors redefined timber flooring in Australia. As pioneers of engineered oak flooring in the local market, the company offered something that was at once practical and profoundly beautiful – floorboards that captured the soul of European oak and delivered it with modern performance. Today, Royal Oak Floors continues to lead the industry with refinement, care and a deep respect for the material. Beautiful, robust, luxurious underfoot, ethical, and designed specifically for both the Australian lifestyle and to suit a range of design aesthetics, Royal Oak Floors are the preeminent choice in engineered timber flooring.



PREVIOUS
Royal Oak Floors -
a living legacy.

OPPOSITE
The rich tones of Royal
Oak Floors' Natural
Collection.

RIGHT
The fine grain of Royal
Oak Floors' Natural
Collection.



The future is here

From sustainable solutions to ease of living, technical advances, and objects of beauty, how we perceive the future is written in what we choose now.



Expanding the typology from homes to apartments, studios, and shared spaces, the MUD AUSTRALIA and FROST* COLLECTIVE collection of architectural house numbers now includes the letters 'A, B, C, and /'. Minimalist yet characterful, the collection is an elevated solution for street-facing details. Photo, Violette Kirton.

mudaustralia.com



Tap into better

When it comes time to renovate a kitchen, it is also the perfect opportunity to embrace the future and explore some great entertainer options from Billi.

As Alan Nasrallah, founder of Indulge Renovations points out, most clients start by asking for boiling and chilled filtered water. And while these are essential for daily use, with instant boiling water making cooking so much faster and pure filtered water making rinsed vegetables and fruit even healthier, on-tap sparkling water is a game changer. “I always encourage them to consider the Sparkling function. The upgrade cost is minimal, but the payoff is huge: imagine serving a crisp glass of sparkling water at a dinner party straight from the tap. It’s those effortless luxuries that leave guests impressed.”

Crafting a kitchen that invites joy, harmonises with your lifestyle and makes both day-to-day living and entertaining a breeze are the ultimate goals with any kitchen renovation. It is also an opportunity to reflect on what you do and don’t need in a kitchen. Indeed, most designers will agree, the fewer appliances on the counter, the better. As such, when specifying for a new home or renovation, Nasrallah follows an entertainer’s water filtration checklist that prioritises aesthetics, performance delivery, and a no-mess functionality. “An undersink system is ideal; it delivers all three functions without cluttering up the benchtop. For serious entertainers, it’s non-negotiable.”

Taking entertaining to the next level, the advice Nasrallah gives to homeowners renovating is clear. “Consider sparkling water on tap.” This is especially true when it comes to entertaining, with the elegant Billi Multifunction Mixer Tap providing a great conversation starter. As Nasrallah states, “It’s the ultimate hosting hack. Guests always comment on it, and it eliminates endless bottles cluttering the fridge.”

Compliant to WaterMark Certification with a 5-Star WELS rating, the Billi Multifunction Mixer Tap has been recognised by a panel of global design experts as a solution to satisfy density reform in residential developments and flexible workspaces. Moreover, with the choice of a worry-free classic installation or seamless retrofit, the Billi Multifunction Mixer Tap will help clear your counterspace no matter the size of your renovation. With an optimised spout tip to ensure optimal user experience, the tap features a 26cm clearance and 180-degree arch rotation.

With its elegantly curved goose-neck spout and minimal interface, the tap, while beautiful is designed to make life a breeze: “Great kitchens aren’t just beautiful—they’re tools for connection,” says Nasrallah. “Every detail, from the stone to the sparkling water tap, should make life (and hosting) more joyful.”

Designed by Ngambri / Canberra-based Tom Skeeahan for STYLECRAFT, the Sway Chair features a refined, sculptural form that combines precision craftsmanship with comfort. The optional seat pad maintains a minimalist aesthetic, while the chair's wire frame and gentle curves create a light, modern silhouette.

stylecraft.com.au



Translating the Pinch collection's distinct aesthetic into a pared back, wall-mounted form, the Pinch Wall Basin Tapware Set from ROGERSELLER features slender levers that extend delicately from a rounded base. The interplay of balance and restraint echoes mid-century modern sensibilities, while precision engineering prompts intuitive use that invites daily interaction with comfort and ease.

winnings.com.au/brands/rogerseller



Undyed, hard-wearing, and possessing a natural shine, the new Lama Velvet from MOKUM is hypoallergenic and antimicrobial, with moisture-wicking properties that increase water, stain, and fire resistance. The velvet pile is composed of the finest pure llama wool, producing a unique textile in delicate natural colours.

jamesdunloptextiles.com

Accessible to the wider community through serial production, ALPINE PASSIVHAUS focuses on creating homes that support health and wellbeing — spaces that are calm, fresh, and comfortable, built from natural materials, well-ventilated and mould-free. “We’re working to make healthy homes the standard, while informing and influencing the public on the benefits of building for wellbeing,” says Klaus Herrmann. Photo, Anwen Keeling.

alpinepassivhaus.com.au





Corfu moments

When designing her own home, Stefania Reynolds, head of interiors at Studio Johnston, drew on her heritage to create an inner-city haven.



Transforming a city-fringe apartment with deft spatial interventions and a Mediterranean palette, Maddison is a home awash with gentle tones, creative curves, unexpected sculptural interventions, and an overriding sense of calm. Home to Studio Johnston's head of interiors and project director, Stefania Reynolds, her husband, and their two young children, the project presented the perfect moment to really consider how they wanted to live in their home. Having spent COVID bundled together, new questions around what was important arose, such as where they are likely to gather and conversely, where they are happiest alone. It also made it clear that a home office, that was both connected and separate, was essential.

As a professional couple, opting for the convenient location of an apartment over the extra size, cost, or commuting time of a suburban family home made a lot of sense. Moreover, with Reynold's considerable talent (Studio Johnston is a highly regarded award-winning architecture and interiors practice specialising in residential and multi-residential), the couple were able to see the bones and potential of the large 1980s apartment in Redfern.

Generously scaled, with a private 68m² courtyard directly accessed from the living room, the ground floor apartment was in a great location. Being close to schools, parks, transport, and recreational and cultural activities,

as well as the offices of both working parents, made it ideal for the whole family. That said, while the position was great and the existing three-bedroom layout was functional, the interiors were tired and lacked storage. Effectively, the whole apartment needed to 'work harder' and become more attuned to how the family interacted.

As the heart of the home and where the family naturally come together, the galley-style kitchen was not conducive to the kind of natural hub they needed. As such, Reynolds redesigned the space to close off the interior end, while opening the surrounding space by removing a column. In doing so, the design shifted significantly from a closed corridor to a relaxed and expanded space that melded naturally to the rest of the home. "Deleting that column in the kitchen opened everything up and unlocked the project," explains Reynolds. "It allowed us to organise the main space into seamless, overlapping zones, like a Venn diagram of how we actually occupy the home."

In reducing the scale of the utility portion of the kitchen, Reynolds wanted to carry the warmth of the kitchen through to the living area. As such, minimal shifts in materiality was essential, as were appliances that push the kitchen to work harder and leave the surfaces clear. Both the V-ZUG range hood and V-ZUG fully integrated dishwasher provide the high function needed without any overt visual presence. Conversely, the V-ZUG Comhair oven with black mirror



glass and V-ZUG four zone induction cooktop were able to provide a wide range of functions while looking fabulous. “I chose V-ZUG appliances for my own renovation because I wanted timeless design, Swiss precision, and effortless performance in my home. Their quality and innovation made it an easy decision — I knew I was investing in something that would last,” says Reynolds.

The newly formed dining and kitchen area is now oriented towards the courtyard and visually connected by wide oak floorboards, while eggshell Venetian plaster gives the kitchen ceiling and island bench a gentle glow that is picked up by brass trim. Tiberio marble and accent colours of silvery blue and pale gold bring Reynold’s Greek heritage into play. “The interiors are inspired by the colours of my Corfu childhood. Peach was the colour of my bedroom. The family house had a lot of terracotta, textured walls, brass details, and had a light, airy feel. We had a huge day bed with cushions piled on top — this was my inspiration for the dining room. For me, nostalgia is a beautiful thing to bring into daily life.”

These familial influences on her aesthetic and colour palette are beautifully realised by a custom table in crown-cut oak with colourful, mismatched legs, the larger of which has a strong horizontal stripe in a nod to the Memphis movement of the 1980s and the apartment’s heritage. This is paired with a bespoke dining banquette in timber and Venetian plaster with saddle tan leather seating and mustard, corduroy velvet cushions. Warm and welcoming, the expanded kitchen is a delight, while the rearrangement of the spaces allows for a home office and ample storage to be woven into the design.

Curating a home is always personal, and for Reynolds, the use of architectural finishes, bespoke furniture, and textiles both elevate the interior and evoke her culture. The architectural joinery, for example, plays with radial curves and oblique angles to soften the apartment’s blunt geometry, while the sliding glass doors to the courtyard are dressed by lush linen curtains in soft and deep tones of terracotta.

Beautiful, personal, and attuned to the family, Maddison is an inner-city home of absolute charm.

PREVIOUS LEFT
V-ZUG Combair oven
with black mirror glass
and V-ZUG four zone
induction cooktop.
All photography,
Anson Smart.

PREVIOUS RIGHT
The new layout allows
for a home office to be
both separate and part
of the home's flow.

OPPOSITE
The striped table leg
nods to the 80s and the
Memphis art movement.

ABOVE
Inspired by a childhood
in Corfu, the colours are
soft and warm.



Elegant and architectural, the Pinch Floor Mount Bath Outlet from ROGERSELLER captures the essence of the collection's design language of architectural precision. Designed to complement freestanding baths, the Pinch collection marries classic curves with elongated, linear handles, creating a harmonious balance between tradition and modernity.

winnings.com.au/brands/rogerseller



Likened to an electro-constructivist Kraftwerk clip, the collaboration between DCW ÉDITIONS and Sebastian Summa has been expanded with the magnificent NL12 suspension pendant light. Positing eloquent, laconic minimalism and sophisticated brutalism, the twelve borosilicate glass tubes are illuminated by a central light source, whereby the outer tubes relay its diffusion by refraction and prism.

winnings.com.au/brands/dcw-editions



Resplendent and dense, the complex and large-scale artworks of JUZ KITSON are exquisite musings on nature's cycles of metamorphosis, decay, beauty, and abundance. As a contemporary multidisciplinary artist, Kitson's intricate hand-building and slip-casting of porcelain pushes the boundaries of material and meaning. Juz Kitson, *Meditations; the colour of morning (II)*, 2024, Jingdezhen porcelain.

sophiegannongallery.com.au

Aesthetically refined, the BILLI HOME BCS system is the ultimate multi-use home water appliance, delivering instant boiling, chilled, and sparkling filtered water with unparalleled convenience. Designed for modern kitchens, the sleek Gooseneck Multifunction Mixer Tap allows all water options to be accessed from a single, stylish tap.

billi.com.au



Beautiful, sustainable, and designed for the future, the CAESARSTONE ICON Collection has six new surfaces: Rossa Nova, Celestial Sky, Calacatta Stillstorm, Glacier Flow, Lunar Frost, and Calacatta Dreamwave. Showcasing distinctive striations, earthy greys, and browns, the expanded collection features natural inclusions such as subtle organic sediments and mineral deposits.

caesarstone.com.au

The theatricality of LEE BROOM'S beginnings as a child actor have come full circle, with the launch of Overture with CALICO WALLPAPER at this year's NYCxDESIGN. "Growing up in the theatre, I became very aware of the power of presentation. I was inspired by the imagination of the set designers who created a visual narrative to the production, and their ability to enhance the emotion and experience of the entire performance," says Broom. For his first wallpaper collaboration, Broom has explored the power of drapery in illusion, continuing his history with theatre, sculpture, and surrealism to create a new form of art that transforms a two-dimensional medium into a three-dimensional scene.

calicowallpaper.com





Aotearoa Art Fair

Following her editorial debut of *Collecting: Living with Art*, Kym Elphinstone visited the Aotearoa Art Fair and selected three impressive artists to follow.

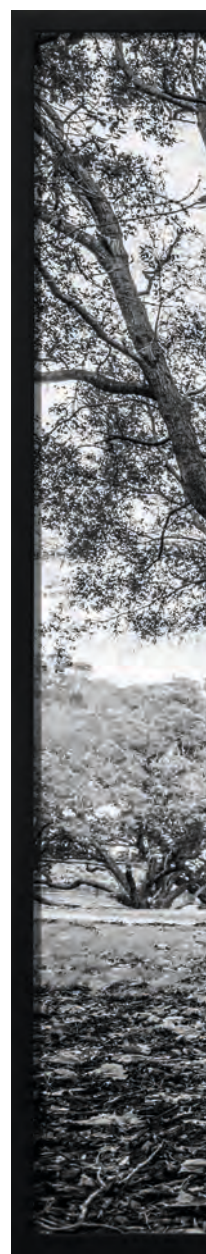


YONA LEE

South Korean-born, Auckland-based artist Yona Lee's practice explores notions of travel, migration and diaspora with her stainless-steel sculptures and installations. Lee was presented at Aotearoa Art Fair by Fine Arts, Sydney. Image, Yona Lee, *Light in Transit*, 2025, stainless steel, lamps, 47.5 x 80 x 43.5cm. Courtesy Fine Arts, Sydney.

MONICA RANI RUDHAR

Drawing upon her Indian and Romanian heritage, Monica Rani Rudhar's monumental earring sculptures, created out of terracotta and brass, captivated at Föenander Galleries. Rani Rudhar was presented at Aotearoa Art Fair by Föenander Galleries. Image, *Hoop Study in Red and White*, 2025, brass, terracotta, wire, 30 x 78cm. Courtesy the artist and Föenander Galleries, Tāmaki Makaurau, Auckland, Aotearoa New Zealand.



**YUKI KIHARA**

Interdisciplinary artist of Japanese and Sāmoan descent, Yuki Kihara, showcased a series of monochrome lenticular photographic works, featuring the persona 'Salome,' a Sāmoan woman inspired by a 19th-century photograph. Kihara was presented at Aotearoa Art Fair by Milford Galleries, Dunedin. Image, Yuki Kihara, *Moments of Presence*, 2024, lenticular photograph, 88 x 122.5cm. Courtesy of Yuki Kihara and Milford Galleries, Aotearoa New Zealand.

Designed to disrupt

There is something lovely in things that are a little odd, a little eccentric, and just that tiny bit outside of the lines.

This is a philosophy taken up by award-winning Australian product designer Nicholas Johnston, with his imaginatively realised Eccentric Collection for Rogerseller.

Awarded both the Red Dot Award for Product Design and The Good Design Award Best in Class for Furniture & Lighting, The Eccentric Collection by Rogerseller is designed to disrupt. Offering a reinterpretation of traditional tapware, the collection is decidedly opposed to rigid uniformity. Instead, it adds richness and layers as it introduces expressions of individuality, warmth, and unexpected detail through its celebration of asymmetry and playfulness in the bathroom. “Eccentric is a nod to the unconventional thinker,” Johnston says. “To the idea that balance can exist in asymmetry, and that refinement doesn’t always follow the straightest line.”

Johnston is himself an unconventional thinker, drawing on characters that flout convention. As such, the collection draws inspiration from the curious rituals of great thinkers and inventors — celebrating nonconformity, individuality, and the quiet rebellion against design convention. For this collection, Johnston pays homage to the quirky genius of the greatest minds in history, including Albert Einstein, Nikola

Tesla, and the Japanese inventor Yoshiro Nakamatsu, whose creative process involves listening to music before diving underwater to enjoy oxygen depriving deep dives, which he claims to spark his best ideas! For Johnston, the individualism, wonder, and curiosity found in many great scientists, explorers, and inventors, and their rebellion against convention, provides a cornucopia of creative impulse.

With this in mind, the unique positioning of the design is elegantly simple, with a slightly off-centre axis that challenges expectations and introduces a moment of surprise in an otherwise uniform space. This quirky characteristic, however, is subtle. The eccentric nature of the progressive tap mixer design (for both wall and hob), for example, is only revealed when the handle is turned and the unexpected back plate featuring cold and hot indicators is progressively revealed. Once the handle is returned to its closed position, the unconventional back plate is once again concealed.

Embracing the Japanese aesthetic philosophy of Wabi-sabi, which finds beauty in imperfection, the visual character of the Eccentric range, comprising cylindrical forms, minimalist lines, and an unexpected twist in orientation, present asymmetry as an imperfection to intrigue. In keeping with the Wabi-sabi appreciation of finding value in simple,

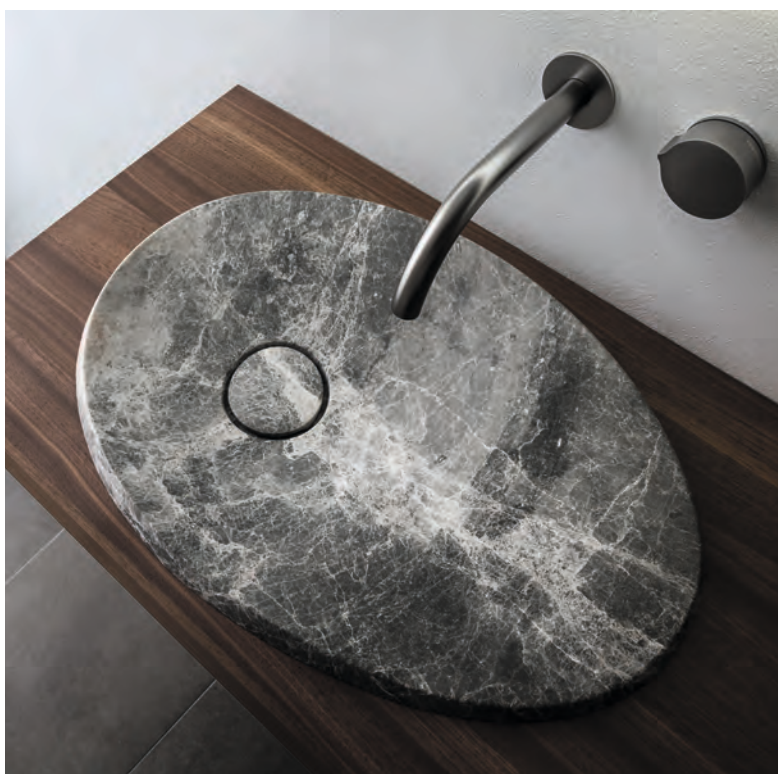


unadorned forms, the foundational shape of each of the pieces in the collection is that of an elegantly proportioned geometric cylinder. Inviting users to slow down and notice the details, the off-centre control is tactile and smoothly inviting to the hand.

The Robe Hook, perhaps the simplest of the designs, is first realised as a streamlined disk that sits out from the wall. However, in redefining the ritual of touch in the everyday, a simple twist of the hand brings the front plate upwards. In doing so, the design shifts from its simplest form to a more clearly expressed hook.

Designed for architects and homeowners, the Eccentric Collection is expansive, with options for every bathroom

need, from progressive mixers to wall basin sets, 2-way diverters, and shower roses. Accessory items within the range include the aforementioned Robe Hook, plus heated and unheated towel rails, paper holders, shelves, and more to ensure a consistent aesthetic throughout. Available in a range of finishes — including Chrome, Graphite, Brushed Nickel, Matte Black, and Brushed Gold — the collection provides specifiers with the freedom to contrast or complement. In short, a comprehensive solution for architectural bathrooms that lean into sculptural, expressive tapware. As Johnston states, the Eccentric Collection is “Designed to be noticed, not to blend in.”



PREVIOUS
Eccentric by
Rogerseller.

ABOVE
The slightly quirky
form of Eccentric by
Rogerseller in Brushed
Nickel.