

BIOGRAPHY

Harri Koskinen

Designer Harri Koskinen (b. 1970) studied in Lahti Institute of Design and the University of Art and Design Helsinki. In 1998, he established his own studio called Friends of Industry, which offers product and concept design as well as exhibition architecture. Koskinen's uncompromising and outstanding design has been internationally recognized right from the beginning of his career. His clients include Altia, Arabia, Artek, Beauty Prestige International, Cassina IXC, Danese, Design House Stockholm, Finlandia Vodka Worldwide, Finlayson, Genelec, Iittala, Lundia, Magis, Maruni Wood Industry Inc., Issey Miyake Inc., Montina, Muji, Oluce, Panasonic, Seiko Instruments Inc., Swarovski, Venini, Woodnotes etc.

Harri Koskinen's design is characterized by practicality and strict aesthetic criteria. He is always searching for innovative solutions for both the consumer and the producer. Usually, Koskinen relies on existing techniques and materials but tries to take them a step further. He wants to keep his designs simple – he brings out the best qualities of a product or a space and lets them speak for themselves.

Koskinen is one of the best-known young designers in the world these days. Along the years, he has won several awards. The most significant of them was Compasso d'Oro Award, which he received in 2004 for the Muu chair designed for Montina. The Italian award is highly esteemed worldwide in the field of design. Last time it was awarded to a Finn in 1957 when Kaj Franck received it for his life's work. In 2007 he was awarded the Pro Finlandia medal by the President of Finland. In 2009, the Fennia Prize Grand Prix, the award of the competition called Fennia Prize, went to Genelec for the 5040A subwoofer designed by Koskinen. Also Arabia and Kaipaus received the Fennia Prize honorary mentions for Koskinen's designs. A five year artist's grant of Finland starting in 2006 has been awarded to Koskinen. Other Koskinen's prizes include the Interior Innovation Award, which he received at the Cologne fair in 2004 for the k chair designed for Woodnotes, and the Young Designer of the Year 2000 awarded by Design Forum Finland to Koskinen and Ilkka Suppanen. Koskinen's works have been presented in numerous exhibitions all over the world. He had his first solo exhibition at the Miyake Design Studio Gallery in Tokyo in 2000 followed by exhibitions in Stockholm, Berlin and Gaggenau.

Resembling an ice cube, Koskinen's *Block* lamp by Design House Stockholm was launched in 1996. New York's Museum of Modern Art, MoMA, also added the Block lamp to its collection. Another product that is well known worldwide is the VAKIO watch collection that Koskinen designed for ISSEY MIYAKE.

In spite of his international career and constant travelling, Koskinen has not forgotten his roots in the Finnish countryside. He was born in Karstula, a little municipality in Central Finland. He is well familiar with farm work, house building and other rural activities. Every now and then, he has to get back to Karstula and drive around its gravel roads. Although he is interested in different cultures and the colourful metropolitan lifestyle, he sometimes feels the urge to return to the peaceful countryside and bathe in a traditional smoke sauna.

www.harrikoskinen.com

Further information and images: Laura Sarvilinna
communications@huippu.fi
tel +358 9 679 043, mob +358 40 519 4195