

the last word

By Ruth Sleightholme

We continue our series highlighting interesting people and outstanding products

In 2003, the Milanese gallerist and design patron Rossana Orlandi exhibited furniture by a relatively unknown Dutch designer called Piet Hein Eek. Within a couple of years, his distinctive scrap-wood furniture and wallpaper had become iconic.

Stories like this surround Rossana. From her gallery – a web of interconnected rooms arranged around a leafy courtyard of curiosities, with her initials bolted in red metal to the gates – the careers of dozens of now very successful designers have been launched.

She is credited with discovering the British designer Sebastian Wrong – she was the first to buy his prototypes – as well as Front, James Plumb and Muller Van Severen. In short, what Rossana shows in spring, stylish shops are selling by autumn.

Who visits her courtyard during Milan's Design Week? As Rossana puts it, 'It would be easier to say who doesn't.'

From her latest edit, expect to see more from Jan & Henry, a design pair from Prague with light, sometimes translucent designs. We also like Emanuela Crotti's inventive furniture made from found objects encased in resin, the adjustable rubber and wood bowls of Andrea Deppieri and Luca Nichetto's restrained, matt ceramic coffee services □



Clockwise from top left: Rossana Orlandi sits on the 'Up' chair, designed by Gaetano Pesce in the Sixties, at B&B Italia. Pine shelving unit, 'Room', by Kyuhyung Cho and Erik Olovsson. Rossana Orlandi's Milan courtyard, showing cotton 'Tentlamps' by Lotty Lindeman. Wood table with resin top, by Emanuela Crotti. Rubber and wood bowls, 'Tête de Bois', by Andrea Deppieri. Aluminium and glass 'Ondulé' tables, and 'Moulds' wood lights, for Lasvit, both by Jan & Henry

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