THE ITALIAN DESIGN : A RADICAL TURBULENCE
EXHIBITION FROM MAY 16TH TO JUNE 22ND 2019

New York City -based SHoP Architects will be honored with the annual award this December, and have been commissioned to design a public plaza at the entrance to the fair. Esteemed Italian watchmakers Officine Panerai will present SHoP Architects with the annual award. The Visionary commission will move to the Miami Design District's Jungle Plaza after Design Miami/ to house an outdoor cultural program in partnership with the Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami.

October 2016 / Design Miami/ is pleased to announce SHoP Architects as the recipient of the 2016 Panerai Design Miami/ Visionary Award. Now in its third year, the annual award is sponsored by Officine Panerai and celebrates those who have made a significant contribution to the field of design. SHoP is being recognized for its bold, evocative architecture, philanthropic initiatives, sustainable development, and innovative practices/entrepreneurship.

In its 20 years of practice, SHoP has built a diverse portfolio of signature projects with works marked by next-generation fabrication and delivery techniques, acute attention to detail, and imaginative programmatic concepts. Though its projects span the globe, with commissions on five continents, SHoP has found particular momentum in its hometown of New York City. SHoP projects in NYC are helping transform one of the world’s most iconic skylines. A super-tall mixed-use tower in Brooklyn, 9 DeKalb, which will stand at 73 stories, is currently in development — a dramatic symbol of the borough’s new identity — the studio’s East River Waterfront Esplanade is considered a new benchmark for successful public spaces in the city, and SHoP is at work on a major addition to the campus of the Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT). Beyond New York, SHoP’s current work includes a headquarters complex for Uber in San Francisco, and the Botswana Innovation Hub in Gaborone.

SHoP’s often unconventional designs are rooted in a love of craft and driven by an ongoing commitment to creating a “high-performance” architecture that embraces the field’s traditional constraints in order to transcend them.

"SHoP is a place where people come together without any prescribed idea about what the aesthetics of a building or public space should be, then we take complex problems and solve them with both beauty and technical proficiency," Founding Principal Gregg Pasquarelli said.
Italian design during the post-war era was marked by a significant change from the inter-war period. A whole generation of young creators (designers, architects, graphic designers, etc.) who appeared in the 1960s understood that world transformation could not be picked up in universities, art or architecture schools but through the formation of creative groups destined to change the way things were approached.

Everyday life, objects and space were perceived in different, often playful ways. The focus turned to reinventing forms and functions and explaining the new way of perceiving them. The colours, shapes and the initial aspect of the piece of the furniture, were redesigned and sometimes derided by designers like Gaetano Pesce, Ettore Sottsass or groups like Superstudio and Archizoom.

It was an approach which was radically different from what was practiced in the past and the trend continued up until the 1980s and 1990s. From this innovative hub of young creators, it is worth presenting some of the key actors of this period who had a different approach to design and who changed things in their own way: Gio Ponti, Carlo Mollino, Joe Colombo and Gino Sarfatti.

After various exhibitions organised by the Downtown Gallery about the presentation and rediscovery of DESIGN: Japanese design (‘Made in Japan’) and Brazilian design (‘Tropicalism’), the gallery is now honored to present an important period of Italian design.

A selection of pieces by all these designers will be presented at the gallery during this exhibition.

Opening on Thursday, May 16th 2019 from 6:00 pm
Laffanour Galerie Downtown / Paris
18, rue de Seine - 75006 Paris
www.galeriedowntown.com
ETTORE SOTTsass (1917-2007)

Ettore Sottsass (1917-2007)
« Superbox », Ca. 1968
Ed. Poltronova
Dimensions : H. 66,5 x 31,4 (square) in.

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Gaetano Pesce
« Dalila Due » armchair, 1981
Hard polyurethane epoxy completion
‘Airport’ lamp, 1986
Polychrome flexible urethane lamp, metal, lead and electrical system

Press Contact: FAVORI
Grégoire Marot - Nadia Banian nadia@favoriparis.com
Laffanour / Galerie Downtown, Paris

Galerie Downtown - François Laffanour specializes in furniture by European and American masters of design - most of them architects - of the 20th century. For the past twenty five years, the gallery has organized thematic and monographic exhibitions on designers such as Jean Prouvé, Charles and Ray Eames, Carlo Mollino and Charlotte Perriand. Shortly after the Second World War, this generation of designers brought a new concept to the art of furnishing, dictated by a need for freedom and functionality - a new « art de vivre » in a time of technological and scientific advances - creating for the first time forms that were pure and without ornament. Galerie Downtown owns and works also with the Galerie Steph Simon archives. Steph Simon was the producer of Charlotte Perriand, Jean Prouvé, Serge Mouille, Georges Jouve as well as Isamu Noguchi furniture, from 1956 to 1974. Since 2004, galerie Downtown has the exclusive rights for the Ron Arad’s Furniture in France.
Design Miami/ Anno unces SHoP Architects as the Recipient of the 2016 Panerai Design Miami/ Visionary Award

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