

# Wallpaper\*

JANUARY 2013

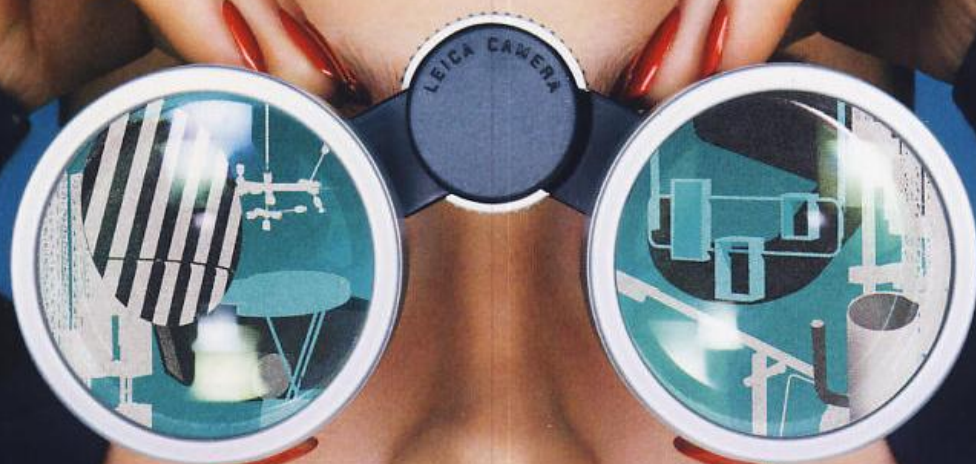
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stars of tomorrow

# JUDGES' AWARDS PREVIEW 2013

## 02 Designer of the year Shortlist



### Ron Gilad

**Company:** Designfenzider

**Established:** 2001

**Based:** New York, US

**Key projects:** Soft Marble Collection for Salvatori; Grado° furniture range for Molteni & C; 'The Line, the Arch, the Circle and the Square' at Dilmos Gallery; furniture for Adele-C; marble candlesticks for Established & Sons  
[www.rongilad.com](http://www.rongilad.com)

Ron Gilad had a bumper year in 2012. The Israeli-born artist/designer was the talk of Milan's Salone, where he demonstrated that his conceptual style could be functional and commercial to boot. He impressed with the Grado° furniture range for Molteni & C, which uses colour accents to experiment with geometry; a collection of marble pieces for stone specialists Salvatori; an exhibition on the 3D form at Milan's Dilmos Gallery; irony-laden pieces for Adele-C; and quirky marble candlesticks for Established & Sons. Consistent across the board is Gilad's ability to give weighty materials such as steel and marble a lightness and dynamism that make him a force to be reckoned with.



### Studio Job

**Company:** Studio Job

**Established:** 2000

**Based:** Antwerp, Belgium

**Key projects:** Studio Job House, Bergeijk; 'Altdeutsche' furniture for Moooi; rugs for Nodus; 'Taj Mahal' table; kitchenware for Sergio Herman  
[www.studiojob.nl](http://www.studiojob.nl)

In late 2011, Dutch luminaries Studio Job transformed a modest Eindhoven house into a museum of future classics, reissues and contemporary work. The Bergeijk villa has since become a testament to the individuality of Studio Job's Job Smeets and Nynke Tynagel and their considered, detail-oriented approach. With its signature take on European iconography, the duo's style has manifested itself in a classical grandfather clock, a cupboard and chest for Moooi; intricate rugs for Nodus; a 'Taj Mahal' table; and flatware for Sergio Herman. This year marked a key transition for the duo, with their products taking on a stronger relevance – a rarity in the design world today.



### Barber Osgerby

**Company:** Barber Osgerby

**Established:** 1996

**Based:** London

**Key projects:** Olympic torch for London 2012 Olympic Games; 'Tobi Ishi' table for B&B Italia; 'Western Façade' for Established & Sons; 'Bench Years' exhibition, at V&A Museum; 'Ascent' exhibition for Haunch of Venison gallery; US flagship store for Mulberry  
[www.barberosgerby.com](http://www.barberosgerby.com)

The Olympic torch was a golden design commission for British designers Edward Barber and Jay Osgerby – and one they tackled with their characteristic mix of rigorous research and a pioneering approach to materials. Made from an aluminium alloy developed for the aerospace industry, this icon of London 2012 came perforated with 8,000 holes cut using a new, super-fast, laser-cutting technology called 'fire-on-the-fly'. The duo have also channelled their finely honed design sensibility in a broad array of directions over the last year, from a sculptural table for B&B Italia to a flagship US store for Mulberry, the latter under the duo's interiors arm, Universal Design Studio.



### Francesco Rota

**Company:** Francesco Rota

**Established:** 1994

**Based:** Milan, Italy

**Key projects:** 'Beryl' tray for KME; furniture for Paola Lenti; 'Hinge' stools for Living Divani; furniture for Lema; lamps for Oluce  
[www.francescorota.com](http://www.francescorota.com)

Francesco Rota might not yet be a household name, but that looks set to change. Although the veteran Italian designer has worked throughout his career with big-name brands such as Moroso and Knoll, it was his latest creations that really caught our eye. Rota's classic simplicity is an exercise in restraint and sophistication, which he applied to refined outdoor loungers, a concrete table and a sofa for Paola Lenti; a modular coffee table inspired by the tangram puzzle for Lema; a geometric stool for Living Divani; and a series of Plexiglas lamps for Oluce – all simple, effective and executed with ease. Rota has long been under-appreciated, but we think that is about to change.



### Ludovica and Roberto Palomba

**Company:** Palomba Serafini Associati

**Established:** 1994

**Based:** Milan, Italy

**Key projects:** 'Sunrise' outdoor furniture and 'Fenix' sofa for Driade; 'Altopiano' sofa for Zanotta; 'Birdie' lampshade for Foscarini; 'Palomba' bathroom collection for Laufen; 'Tangram' cooker hood for Elica  
[www.palombaserafini.com](http://www.palombaserafini.com)

Since opening their studio in 1994, Ludovica and Roberto Palomba have worn both architect and designer hats, creating products for brands such as Zucchetti and Kos, as well as offering art direction for the likes of Technogym and Zanotta. Known for their prolific bathroom and kitchen projects, the couple have recently broadened their scope to include outdoor furniture, sofas and lighting. However, it was still their bathroom and kitchen creations that most impressed. Their sculptural bathtub for Laufen and geometric cooker hood for Elica both bear the pair's refined signature, but also bring an elevated, avant-garde quality to the most mundane of everyday objects.