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Interview with Mumbai Designer Doriana Fuksas

Doriana Fuksas, what was your inspiration for this design?

Today most people spend more time at work than at home. We knew that we wanted to create a design that didn't look like something purely for the office, but that could be also be used at home. We wanted a product that integrated and adapted to its environment, because wherever you spend your time you should feel comfortable and objects around you should create a warm atmosphere.

What do you associate with the term Mumbai?

Mumbai stands for something new, lively and innovative like the vibrant city Mumbai in India.

How did you and Haworth start working together?

Haworth in Italy approached us and asked us if we would like to create a collection for them. We thought it was an exciting idea as we have never worked for an office furniture manufacturer before. For us Haworth is a unique company which has operated successfully for over 60 years.

Are you planning further projects with Haworth?

Not right now. First we want to see how the world reacts to Mumbai. At first we planned to create a collection just for Europe, but Haworth was so enthusiastic they decided to offer Mumbai worldwide. If Haworth wants to work together again we would be delighted to do so. It was a pleasure to design Mumbai.

What kind of wood did you use?

We were looking for wood with a light structure which could be processed and bent easily and also with a nice surface texture which would give any room a warm atmosphere. To reach the desired shading we used two different types of wood, hence the two colours. The 12cm gap gives the structure not only a lighter appearance but can also be used for storing your laptop or documents.

The collection is very trendy and is by no means comparable with conventional office furniture. Is Mumbai only for a sophisticated avant-garde?

No, Mumbai is for anyone who wants a warm and friendly atmosphere. Whether in the office or at home it does not matter as long as you are comfortable.

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**Besides your headquarters in Rome you have offices in Paris and Frankfurt.
Are you planning to open an office in Zurich in the near future?**

We would love to work in Zurich and open an office, but so far we don't have any projects there. We have offices where we have projects and we therefore work all around the world. Whether it is in Tokyo, Vienna or New York, we live where our work leads us. At the moment we are responsible for the design of the new airport in Shenzhen, China

Interview with Doriana Fuksas, Architect and Designer

www.fuksas.it

About Doriana Fuksas:

Doriana Fuksas was born and grew up in Rome. In 1979 she graduated from La Sapienza University and received a degree in architecture. She has been working with Massimiliano Fuksas since 1985 and is responsible for design projects at the Fuksas firm. She is married to Massimiliano and lives in Rome and Paris.

A small selection of their numerous architecture and design projects:

Architecture:

- Bao'an International Airport, Shenzhen, China (winning project- 2008);
- Zenith Music hall, Amiens, France (2003-2008);
- The new Ginza Armani Tower, Tokyo, 2007;
- Zenith, the Music hall in Strasbourg 2003/2007 ;
- the New Parish Complex in Foligno, Italy, 2001/2008 ;
- New Spa Complex of Montecatini, Montecatini, Italy, 2007,
- Hotel and Casino Las Vegas, USA, 2006-2012.

Design:

- Lounge-chair Carolina for Poltrona Frau - 2008,
- Mumbai (new executive collection of tables and cabinets) for Haworth - 2008,
- Sit-Sat and the Sterling Silver Set for Sawaya&Moroni - 2007,
- The cutlery set "Colombina Collection" for Alessi – 2007;
- Collection of furnishing accessories and contemporary jewellery "Islands" for Short Stories – 2006.