

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
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CONTEMPORARY DUTCH DESIGN TRANSFORMS THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART'S GARDEN CAFÉ

The Museum of Modern Art presents **Dutch Design in the Garden Café**, a showcase of contemporary design from The Netherlands in a functional setting. This project transforms the interior of the Garden Café, the Museum's restaurant facing the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Sculpture Garden, through a presentation of works by some of Holland's most prominent designers. Opening to the public on October 24, 1995, the Café features chairs, tables, lighting, food stations, and other fixtures and furnishings, as well as a display of Dutch graphic design, including posters, books, and postage stamps. Launched in conjunction with the exhibition **PIET MONDRIAN: 1872 - 1944** (on view through January 23, 1996), **Dutch Design in the Garden Café** will be an ongoing program that brings together the talents of Dutch interior, industrial, and graphic designers. The project represents a collaboration among The Museum of Modern Art, The Netherlands Design Institute, and the Consulate General of The Netherlands in New York.

"With the **MONDRIAN** exhibition underway, our thoughts naturally turned to the idealized environments that the Dutch artist and his De Stijl colleagues designed," explains Terence Riley, Chief Curator, Department of Architecture and Design, The Museum of Modern Art, who, with Paola Antonelli, Associate Curator, provided curatorial overview for the plan. "For this project, we looked to young designers as the contemporary interpreters of that tradition in Dutch art and design."

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"Dutch design responds quickly to new needs," notes John Thackara, Director of The Netherlands Design Institute. "Increasingly, that means using more intelligence and less material to reduce the 'ecological footprint' of a product. And, whatever the product, there will always be an interesting twist in the tale."

Conceived by Frans Bevers and Lies Willers of Opera, Studio for Three-Dimensional Design, Amsterdam, the plan for the Garden Café encompasses a redesign of the restaurant's entrance and circulation, and the layout of tables, chairs, and lighting created by various Dutch design studios. Opera also designed the sixty-six red lacquer café tables in the central area and panels for the display of graphics.

The various designers featured in Opera's layout have created works that were either commissioned by the Design Institute and the Museum or previously displayed in museums. They include:

Thomas and Matthijs van Cruijssen, renowned furniture designers in Amsterdam, who created three twelve-foot-long lacquered yellow birch tables (specially-commissioned)

Piet Hein Eek, best known for his adaptive reuse of interior elements, who developed a series of stools, chairs, and tables made of silver punched aluminum

Rody Graumans, an industrial designer, who developed dramatic lighting fixtures made from pared-down materials, including a cluster of eighty-five standard light bulbs

Joep van Lieshout, a sculptor specializing in functional installations, who designed the lime green and turquoise bussing stations (specially-commissioned)

Tejo Remy, known for improvising new designs from common objects, who designed light fixtures made from recycled milk bottles

Henk Stallinga, an industrial designer, who developed a series of one hundred transparent plastic lamps, each with a red bulb, suspended together from the ceiling

The project also features a display of recent graphic design, presenting some of the most renowned and innovative Dutch designers, including Anthon Beeke, Lex Reitsma, and the design group Wild Plakken. Among the works featured are posters, primarily for Dutch cultural institutions and political groups. An additional display case features designs commissioned by KPN Royal PTT Nederland, which also sponsored the **MONDRIAN** exhibition, including phone cards, books, and postage stamps.

Dutch Design in the Garden Café is made possible through the generous support of The Netherlands Ministry of Education, Culture and Science; The Netherlands Foreign Investment Agency; The Netherlands Design Institute, Amsterdam; the Mondriaan Foundation, Amsterdam; the Foundation for Visual Arts, Architecture and Design, Amsterdam; and KPN Royal PTT Nederland.

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The Garden Café features light meals and self-service snacks. It is open Saturday through Tuesday, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Thursday and Friday, from 12:00 noon to 7:45 p.m., and is closed on Wednesday. Every Friday night, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:45 p.m., the Café features live jazz. Through January 19, the Café features "Music of Mondrian's Time," a program of jazz from the 1920s to the 1940s, played by notable New York City musicians.

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For further information or photographic materials, contact Elisa Behnk, Department of Public Information, 212/708-9749.