

Projects 66 : Campana/Ingo Maurer

Paola Antonelli

Author

Antonelli, Paola

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campana/ingo maurer

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Projects 66 brings together the work of designers from two different material cultures and two different generations, German lighting designer Ingo Maurer and the Brazilian furniture designers Fernando and Humberto Campana, and provides a unique statement about both the universality and the peculiarity of contemporary design.

Ingo Maurer is well-known for his unmistakable lighting fixtures, designs with strong emotional resonances and a seemingly universal appeal. He first trained as a typographer and graphic designer in Switzerland and Germany and has long been fascinated by the bare light bulb, which he calls "the perfect meeting of industry and poetry." In 1966, he designed his first lighting fixture. Inspired by Pop art, the lamp called *Bulb* was, in fact, a bulb within a bulb. Its major success prompted Maurer to set up his own manufacturing company. Along with paper, his favorite material, the bulb has remained a recurrent theme in Maurer's work, as evidenced by the lamps in this exhibition.

Fernando and Humberto Campana, brothers from São Paulo, have recently gained respect in the design world for their evocative furniture, often made with unexpected materials. In their work, the Campana Brothers unite industrial techniques and materials with traditional craftsmanship. Most of the works selected for the exhibition are variations on the modern chair: a traditional tubular steel frame may be finished with cotton ropes, plastic bubble-wrap, or cardboard. The furnishings are intuitive and spontaneous; the designers fully exploit the freedom of expression and experimentation provided by technology today.

The designers in Projects 66 show a mutual affinity that surpasses generational and material differences to evoke a unique evolutionary trend in design. The best contemporary objects express history and contemporaneity, exude the humor of the material culture that generated them while speaking a global language, and carry a memory of the past and an intelligence of the future. And, of course, the best contemporary objects are those that tell us why they were made and reveal the processes that led to their making. They are able to carry us to places we have never been, but also to spark a sense of belonging in these exciting times of cultural and technical possibilities.

Paola Antonelli

Associate Curator, Department of Architecture and Design

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Front: Ingo Maurer. *Lucellino*. Wall lamp. 1992. Photo: Hans Buttermilch, courtesy Ingo Maurer. Fernando and Humberto Campana. *Screen Sculpture*. 1993. Photo: Andrés Otero, courtesy Fernando and Humberto Campana

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