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Tortona 37 - Matteo Thun Portrait

The cover of the magazine 'designer' features a green header with the word 'designer' in white. Below the header, there are several architectural sketches. One sketch shows a tree and a person, with an arrow pointing to a framed version of the tree. Another sketch shows a house with a tree in front, and a red dashed line indicating a view from the house. A third sketch shows a person walking in a landscape with a tree and a building. The text on the cover includes 'Architects Developers Designers' in the top right, and three article teasers: 'GETTING PERSONAL' by Patricia Urquiola, 'WALKING IN MEMPHIS' by Matteo Thun, and 'Out of Sight...' by Helping a home to blend into its surroundings. A barcode and price information are located in the bottom right corner.

designer

Architects
Developers
Designers

GETTING PERSONAL
Patricia Urquiola creates a bathroom with the human touch

WALKING IN MEMPHIS
Matteo Thun on memories, inspiration and the philosophy of design

Out of Sight...
Helping a home to blend into its surroundings

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Q



Architect and designer Matteo Thun is in the Q hot seat this month...

HOW AND WHEN DID YOU FIRST BECOME INTERESTED IN DESIGN?

When I was three years old, making my own toys from ceramic with my mother.

AT WHAT TIME OF DAY DO YOU FIND THE MOST INSPIRATION?

Between 6am and 7am – after yoga.

WHICH DESIGNER/ARCHITECT DO YOU ADMIRE THE MOST AND WHY?

Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo... through to the timeless heroes of the 20th century such as Mies Van Der Rohe, Saarinen, and Le Corbusier... to today's superstars – Rem Koolhaas and Jean Nouvel.

WHAT MUSIC INSPIRES YOU?

Bach and Mozart.

DESCRIBE YOUR DESIGN PHILOSOPHY IN ONE WORD

'Zero design': understated Eco, instead of Ego.

WHERE DO YOU WORK ON YOUR DESIGNS/PROJECTS?

Anywhere – on the plane and under the shower.

WHAT HAS BEEN THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE FOR YOU THROUGHOUT YOUR CAREER?

Keeping the same enthusiasm every morning.



Above: Thun's light design for Zumtobel



Above: The Thun-designed Hugo Boss special concept store in New York

WHAT PROFESSION WOULD YOU HAVE PURSUED HAD YOU NOT BECOME A DESIGNER?

Test pilot for NASA.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE CITY IN THE WORLD?

Napoli.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE MEMORY FROM UNIVERSITY?

The day of my degree.

HOW WELL DO YOU FEEL YOUR EDUCATION/TRAINING PREPARED YOU FOR THE WORLD OF WORK?

Zero.

WHAT ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT CHALLENGES FACING DESIGNERS TODAY?

Teamwork management.

WHO WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO DESIGN SOMETHING FOR?

The bedroom of Carla Bruni.

WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF DESIGNING FOR SO MANY DIFFERENT COMPANIES?

Cross fertilisation.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO YOUNG PEOPLE TRYING TO BREAK INTO THE INDUSTRY TODAY?

Try to make a true contribution to sustainability.

WHAT BOOK ARE YOU READING?

The Eternities – Vedanta Treatise by A Parthasarathy.

WHAT PROJECTS ARE YOU WORKING ON NOW AND HOW DO YOU ENVISAGE YOUR WORK DEVELOPING IN THE FUTURE?

Investment downsizing, improving the quality of life on planet Earth.

WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT LESSON THAT LIFE SO FAR HAS TAUGHT YOU?

To take time for, and care of, my family. designer

Matteo Thun is a prolific architect and designer who, along with Ettore Sottsass, was one of the founders of the influential 1980s design movement The Memphis Group. He has won many awards and worked with a long list of big-name commercial clients including Vitra, Villeroy & Boch, Zucchetti and Fantini.

www.matteothun.com