

werner aisslinger, germany	riccardo blumer, italy	nick crosbie, uk	alfredo häberli, switzerland
ron arad, uk	tord boontje, uk	björn dahlström, sweden	isabel hamm, germany
shin + tomoko azumi, uk	bououllec brothers, france	michele de lucchi, italy	thomas heatherwick, uk
emmanuel babled, italy	boym partners, usa	nick dine, usa	sam hecht, uk
gijs bakker, holland	julian brown, uk	tom dixon, uk	stefanie hering, germany
barber osgerby, uk	stephen burks, usa	james dyson, uk	matthew hilton, uk
yves béhar, usa	büro für form, germany	el ultimo grito, uk	geoff hollington, uk
mario bellini, italy	campana brothers, brazil	eos, austria	richard hutten, holland
sebastian bergne, italy/uk	david chipperfield, uk	for use, austria	massimo iosa ghini, italy
lena bergström, sweden	antonio citterio, italy	norman foster, uk	james irvine, italy
jeffrey bennett, usa	claesson koivisto rune, sweden	naoto fukasawa, japan	jonathan ive, usa
jurgen bey, holland	claudio colucci, france/japan	christian ghion, france	jam, uk
christian biecher, france	sebastian conran, uk	stefano giovannoni, italy	hella jongerius, holland
blu dot, usa	matali crasset, france	konstantin grcic, germany	patrick jouin, france

designers on design

toshiyuki kita, japan	marre moerel, spain	philips design, holland	matteo thun, italy
harri koskinen, finland	jasper morrison, uk	christophe pillet, france	tko design, uk
tsutomu kurokawa, japan	pascal mourgue, france	porsche design, austria	patricia urquiola, italy
arik levy, france	marc newson, france/uk	ingegerd raman, sweden	maarten van severen, belgium
jonas lindvall, sweden	norway says, norway	karim rashid, usa	vogt + weizenegger, germany
piero lissoni, italy	patrick norguet, france	thomas sandell, sweden	marcel wanders, holland
ross lovegrove, uk	fabio novembre, italy	aziz sariyer, turkey	hannes wettstein, switzerland
xavier lust, belgium	frank nuovo, usa	william sawaya, italy	terence woodgate, uk
christophe marchand, switzerland	olgoj chorchoj, czech republic	jerszy seymour, italy	dirk wynants, belgium
enzo mari, italy	l+r palomba, italy	seymour powell, uk	helen yardley, uk
michael marriott, uk	john pawson, uk	michael sodeau, uk	tokujin yoshioka, japan
jean-marie massaud, france	pearsonloyd, uk	george sowden, italy	michael young, belgium/iceland
ingo maurer, germany	simon pengelly, uk	philippe starck, france	terence conran and max fraser
alberto meda, italy	jorge pensi, spain	tangerine, uk	

Emmanuel Babled

born 1967 in France

Studio Location

Milan, Italy

Emmanuel Babled graduated in Industrial Design from the Istituto Europeo di Design in Milan in 1989, and he has, by and large, made the city his home ever since.

After a few initial jobs in art direction, Babled turned his attention to glass design, producing pieces for celebrated producers such as Venini, Wedgwood and Waterford Crystal.

In 1995, he designed a collection for the Japanese design company Idée, which bought him international attention. Subsequently he has also developed partnerships with other respected producers, including Rosenthal, Baccarat and Covo.

Often featuring bulbous forms, bright colours or bold patterning, Babled's fluid glass pieces show the designer's rapturous delight in the medium and his continued commitment to experimentation. Among the most spectacular of his recent creations has been the "Hypnos" collection (2002) of

vases, bowls and clocks for Baccarat, in which he set exquisite cut crystal into coloured Corian to create highly contemporary yet timeless pieces.

Babled maintains his creative freedom by producing independent limited series of glass and ceramic pieces alongside his consultancy work for private clients and companies, which encompasses not only glass but interior and product design.

In addition, he has curated many exhibitions and events, notably the successful "SMASH" travelling glass exhibition for Covo in 2001.

My inspiration

Amongst other great masters, the harmony, grace, and elegant clarity of Oscar Niemeyer's architectural repertoire



emmanuel babled

Q. What types of products do you design?

A. I design objects connected to the decorative arts, from the functional to the emotional, using high-quality craft techniques as well as mass-production processes based on high technology.

Q. What or who has been a significant influence on your work?

A. I grew up in the 1970s, and I was deeply impressed by some of the design feel of that decade – the powerful graphic impact of things like wallpaper and moquette carpets and fabrics vis-à-vis the use of optical effects and strong colours like orange, purple and green. Then, of course, I've been influenced by great artists, architects and designers, like Verner Panton, Andy Warhol, Arne

Jacobsen, Oscar Niemeyer, Alvar Aalto, to give just a few examples...

Q. What was your big break?

A. My first contact with Venini in Venice in 1992, and my first glass exhibition for Idée in Tokyo in 1995.

Q. What human emotions and necessities drive your designs?

A. Happiness, modernity and freedom.

Q. How important are trends in your work?

A. Trends are by definition an already "recognised sign of our time" and I'm more excited by discovering new things.

Q. How important is it for your work to reflect a national design characteristic?

A. I was born French; I have been living in Italy for almost 20 years; my wife is Dutch and my children have

different cultural backgrounds. They really don't know where they come from or where they belong, and they really don't care either... I don't think nationality is an important question.

Q. Is your work an individual statement or a team solution?

A. I'm used to working with a lot of different people according to the kind of job I'm doing... In the end, though, I'm the one who's responsible, so, in that sense, it's a personal statement. Of course, on other occasions... I need to work with a well-organised and specialised team.

Q. What elements of the design process do you find particularly frustrating?

A. My work is about playing and using all the relevant elements of the

design process in order to avoid any frustration that might damage the final result.

Q. To what level will you compromise to satisfy your client?

A. I don't really see it as a question of "compromising". If you work with a client, it is because both parties have chosen to work with one another, which indirectly means that you agree with the rules of the game.

Q. What do you still aspire to design?

A. The list of my aspirations would be much longer than the list of what I've done so far...

Q. How would you sum up your design approach?

A. Listening and watching; analysing and trying; solving and enjoying.



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Client list
 Baccarat
 Covo
 Crea Diffusion
 Giannini
 Idée
 Kundalini
 Mogu
 Rosenthal
 Slide
 Venini
 Viceversa
 Waterford Crystal
 Wedgwood
 also self-production

My work
 1. "Sunday light
 for Slide (2003)
 2. "Rings Tray" made
 in Corian by Crea
 Diffusion (2003)
 3. "Kyklos" hand-
 blown glass vases
 for Venini (2003)
 4. "Bacbab" porcelain
 collection for
 Rosenthal (1998)
 5. "Soft" hand blown
 glass vases for
 Studio Babled
 (2003)