

## Design



# Faces of Polish design

Maciek Prolński

AN EXHIBITION OF POLISH INDUSTRIAL DESIGN, entitled "Faces of Polish design" is on at the National Gallery in Prague. The show is a collection of works by established Polish designers as well as newcomers and is one of the DESIGNBLOK events of the Prague festival. It is the biggest design exhibition from Poland in the recent history of the Czech Republic. By displaying the individualism of Polish design, the exhibition shows the structures of design in Poland, including different schools, design groups and producers. The opening night was held on October 7th. The exhibition, which is to run until end-November, was put together by PRO-DESIGN.PL and the well-known Polish designer, Tomasz Rudkiewicz was its curator. "Polish Market" is the media partner of the event.

The main theme of the exhibition is the presentation of projects and companies investing in design within the overall development of Polish industry. "Faces of Polish Design" is an exhibition that promotes Polish functional design and those who create it. During the event one can see works by experienced Polish designers, as well as by students of various art colleges

throughout Poland (including in Warsaw, Kraków, Poznań, Wrocław, Łódź, Koszalin and Gdańsk). Well-known manufacturers, such as Zelmer, Kross, Balma and Profap have an opportunity to display their products. Individual works are displayed by Tomasz Augustyniak, Tomek Rygalik, Marek Listkiewicz, Katarzyna Laskowska, Andrzej Śmiałek and others. "What we are displaying in Prague has one

common feature, that is, it comes from Poland. It was designed, planned and made by Poles. Manufacturers, designers and university lecturers make up the circle which with their work fills in the space I describe as Design PL," said Andrzej Tomasz Rudkiewicz. Organisers of the exhibition are PRO-DESIGN.PL, the Polish Institute in Prague and the Academy of Fine Arts (ASP) in Warsaw. ::



**Wojciech Pobóg –Pałowski**

Trade and Investment Promotion Section  
at the Polish Embassy in Prague

The Design.pl exhibition is an excellent opportunity to present the Polish school of modern industrial design to the Czech public. The exhibits, including interior design solutions, home appliances and modes of transport, show that the functionality of objects that surround us can be combined with incredible beauty.

We are hoping that business cooperation will be one of the results coming from this exhibition. We already have signs of initial discussions by producers of items on show with Czech partners. We are particularly keen to promote Polish specialties, which include furniture and lighting. I promise that the Trade and Investment Promotion Section will support Polish companies in this matter.

**Alicja Adamczak**

President of the Polish Patent Office

The Polish Patent Office, which is one of the main organisers of the "Faces of Polish design", is continuing a series of activities designed to promote Polish industrial design, as a field where Polish designers have exceptional achievements that show this country's innovative potential. The main aim of the show is to present important projects which are characterised by specific values that are both aesthetic and useful. These projects were picked by Polish curators from among the huge output by designers who are continuing the rich tradition of Polish industrial design, and who for many years have been respected in the world for their harmonious synthesis of selected materials, innovative construction solutions, very original forms and high functionality. The cross-section of Polish industrial design on display in the Czech capital constitutes a very valuable element of promoting Poland in the international arena, as well as in the context of Polish presidency of the EU next year. The exhibition is one of the events that serve to bring Poland and the Czech Republic closer through the presentation of cultural achievements. The fact that the Czech media give plenty of coverage to the show stressing its high standard demonstrates the importance of the event for the promotion of Poland. I am convinced that fruitful cooperation with our Czech partners will be continued in future, both in the artistic field as well as in economic initiatives, using the experience of eminent industrial designers from both countries.

**Ksawery Piwocki**

Vice-chancellor of the Academy of Fine Arts (ASP) in Warsaw:

It is one of the most important undertakings relating to design in Poland, which demonstrates what's going on in the academic world. Today in Poland we are finally getting through to various decision-makers with a message that design is important socially and economically. Most of our graduates will most likely not be doing art in its pure form. They will work in industry and the crafts, helping to create the image of a modern nation. In the West the introduction of expensive industrial design projects into mass production is supported by governments, in Poland that is still non-existent. There seems to be a need for state support of the competitiveness of Polish products at the level of fine art academies which in Poland also teach design. At the ASP we try to remind students that the Academy is in Warsaw and that they should also give something back to the city. As the former dean of the ASP's Design Faculty I try very hard to support such initiatives.

**Andrzej Tomasz Rudkiewicz**

The "Faces of Polish Design" exhibition is yet another undertaking by DESIGN.PL, to last until November 30 in the prestigious National Gallery of the Czech Republic in Prague. It shows individuals creating Polish industrial design. It presents design departments of Polish academies of fine art, individual designers, project groups and completed designs. Among projects on show are trains, trams, yachts, an aeroplane, home electronics, lighting, furniture and also toys. The exhibition displays the basic structure and the possibilities of Polish design which is highly professional and sophisticated in its execution, and the design of products mass-produced by Polish industry. The exhibition is designed to inspire both nations, the Poles and the Czechs, but most of all it is addressed to decision makers in the economic and cultural spheres of both countries. We want to see what Polish design is, what it looks like both in products and in production.

