Projekt Handwerk
Exhibition

September 21. – October 31. 2012
Eco Design Home, Zurich

About the project

Enthusiastic about the variety of traditional craftsmanship with its peculiar charm, product designers Nicole Lehner and Luzia Kaelin have attempted to discover new directions for handicrafts.

In intense collaboration with four Swiss craftspeople, a variety of products for everyday use have been developed. The objects emphasise the qualities of the four particular crafts in a specific manner without being constrained by the demands of serial production.

Project Handicraft unites traditional craftsmanship with contemporary design and creates modern interpretations of hand-made products. The new forms have given the hand-crafted products a fresh, up-to-date makeover, and in doing so arouse enthusiasm for Swiss crafts and sustainable regional manufacture while furthering the existence of the extraordinary craft techniques.

From September 21. until October 31. 2012 the results of the *Projekt Handwerk* will be exhibited at the Eco Design Home Showroom in Zurich.

Next to that, the products in collaboration with Weissküferei Mösli are nominated for the WoodAward and will be exhibited at designer's saturday in Langenthal Switzerland coming November.

www.projekt-handwerk.ch
www.ecodesignhome.ch

Financial support:

- Ernst Göhner Stiftung

- Unesco biosfera Val Müstair Parc Naziunal

- Patronat der Schweizerischen Unesco Kommission

designasyl

The product designers Nicole Lehner and Luzia Kaelin, working together under the alias *designasyl* (design refuge), see their responsibility in design as rethinking objects from the their origins – this includes understanding traditional techniques, observing habits, carefully selecting materials, as well as always closely communicating with the manufacturer. They are convinced that hand-crafted and locally manufactured products will lead the way to a better future.

The following specialists supported *Projekt Handwerk*:

Matteo Gonet, *Glassworks GmbH*

Hans Mösli, *Weissküferei Mösli*

Petra Haldimann, *Handweberei Tessanda*

Christoph Hauri, *artist*

Marianne Brüngger, *ceramica d'arte*

Laurin Schaub, *ceramist*

Tamara Shontshang, *ceramist*

Projekt
Handwerk

The four crafts

1. The Cooper

The wooden equipment used in alpine farming is the product of a special craft – the cooper. Carved mostly from maple and fir wood, the cooper builds wooden barrels and churns for alpine dairy farming.
Today, professional coopers are a dying breed. New hygienic standards have expelled wooden containers from alpine farming, almost rendering the cooper redundant with only a minimal number of traditional products to manufacture.

For *Projekt Handwerk*, *designasyl*, together with the cooper Hans Mösli from Gaisin Appenzell, developed new products which benefit from traditional cooper techniques by reinterpreting the skilful handicraft. The result was an innovative bathroom product line for daily use that complements contemporary home decor while retaining the rustic charm of hand-made products.

2. The Hand-weaver

During hand-weaving, pre-stressed warp threads are held in place while weft yarns are woven through them. Weaving is a method of fabric production and one of the oldest crafts, however the development of weaving machines during the industrial revolution put a sudden end to the handicraft. Nowadays, hand-weaving is practised mostly as a decorative art, though an apprenticeship in the trade is still possible in Switzerland. *Manufactura Tessanda Val Müstair* in Grisons is one of the last larger hand-weaving workshops in Switzerland.

designasyl in collaboration with *Manufactura Tessanda* developed light summer blankets with corresponding cushions. The weaving pattern derives from a raw-linen sample discovered in the company archives. The products are woven from a linen warp and woollen weft yarns, materials that were traditionally used in the region. The colour gradient dissolves the traditional pattern and lends an unexpected freshness to the woollen blankets.

3. The ceramist

There is a long history of ceramic art in almost all developed cultures. A Swiss speciality is the Boccalino, a simple wine drinking pot made from clay, its tradition origins stemming from Ticino. During the fifties, the Boccalino became a popular souvenir, however in just twenty years it has lost its significance with the last Boccalino ceramic workshop in Ticino closing its doors in 2008.

In search of new aesthetics for the Boccalino ideas were exchanged with Marianne Brüngger, an experienced ceramist from Gordola in Ticino, resulting in a new form which respects the traditional characteristics of the Boccalino, its base, handle and spout. The new forms are hand-made using a potter's wheel by ceramists Tamara Shontshang and Laurin Schaub. A decent floral decor by Christoph Hauri and a discreet range of colours has brought the Boccalino back to the contemporary dining table.

4. The Glassmaker

The glassmaker uses long established methods to produce a wide-array of glass products. With a blowing iron glass lumps are taken from the oven and using various tools to turn, blow and cool the material it is transformed from raw glass into an object. Nowadays however, even complicated glass forms can be seamlessly mass-produced over night.

In Switzerland, the glassmaker trade is no longer offered as an apprenticeship. Matteo Gonet is one of the few glassmakers in Switzerland who can still master the old, little-practiced glassmaking techniques. One such technique is reticello, a decoration for glass bowls and vases which was first introduced in the beginning of the 16th century in Venice. The technique originated from filigree glass, where multiple tubes of white glass are rolled out on a flat surface to form threads that are then embedded in clear glass. The technique's high-precision inspired the geometrically formed vases giving a contemporary appearance to the old reticello technique.

–

Images

Images of the final products as well as impressions from the workshops can be downloaded from our website:

www.projekt-handwerk.ch/presse/

**Projekt Handwerk / designasyl . Nicole Lehner & Luzia Kälin . Schachen 34 . 5000 Aarau . Switzerland
mail@projekt-handwerk.ch . +41 (0)79 787 76 27 . www.projekt-handwerk.ch**