

SPECIAL
EDITION

INTERNATIONAL

ONE STORY

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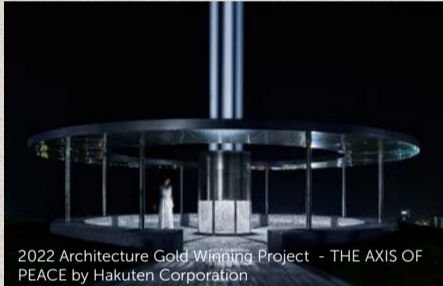
VISION, VALUES & UNIQUE TALENT

CROSS-DISCIPLINARY AWARDS



With categories that celebrate the cross-disciplinary nature of design and architecture, the awards highlight the vision, values and unique talents of designers and architects across the globe.

THE STRENGTHS OF DESIGN



2022 Architecture Gold Winning Project - THE AXIS OF PEACE by Hakuten Corporation

At the heart of the awards is a belief in the strengths of design in finding solutions for the challenges of today and in creating beauty for all in our world, today and in future.

DESIGN AND ARCHITECTURE PRACTICES ACROSS THE GLOBE



2022 Interior Design Shortlisted - % Arabica Riyadh The Zone by no.10, NOMURA Co., Ltd.

The awards celebrate design and architecture, showcasing practices across the globe that are at the forefront of innovation and sustainability.

INTERVIEW



Peggy Lui shares the establishment and ethos of Sky Design Awards and looks to the future.

THE POWER OF NOW



The Sky Design Awards collaborates with global organizations to showcase winning and shortlisted projects internationally.



ONE WORLD

Opening essay by Lianne Hackett

The mission statement of Sky Design Awards is 'It is time to expand, support and promote the story of the designers.' Over five years, the Tokyo-based awards programme has put itself firmly on the awards map now drawing nominations from design and architecture practices across the globe.

Founded by Peggy Lui in 2019, the aim was always to create a cross-disciplinary awards programme to elevate design and bring together designers into a community that would showcase the strengths of design to the business world. Hong Kong designers, for example, are growing in the number of nominations having found the awards programme a vital channel to broadcast their work to the wider world.

Having researched the awards archive, the calibre of winning and shortlisted designers is clear to see as is the shared warmth of feeling between awardees. Without doubt, from its inception, Sky Design Awards has created something special. The photographic record shows interaction between designers where greetings are exchanged. There is no ageism: venerable elders come together with the newly established with awards ceremonies including the offspring of designers who are sweetly embraced into the event.

Showcasing has always been at the heart of Sky Design Awards. In its launch year, a bound publication, the 2019 Annual, was produced. From 2020 onwards, the main showcase, apart from the awards ceremony, has become the annual exhibition where over five days, designers have the opportunity to bring to a wide audience of design professionals, media and potential clients their vision, values and unique talent. Commencing in Tiers Gallery, Tokyo, the exhibitions have subsequently been held in larger gallery spaces in the city.

“Peggy Lui is clear in her vision and passion for developing connections between designers through the Sky Design Awards. Her mantra is ‘The power of now’. In posing the question to her for this special edition of One Story, ‘The future: what does it hold for Sky Design Awards?’, her answer was simple. ‘Limitless’.”

WINNING & SHORTLISTED PROJECTS SINCE 2019 - 2022

"ALL LISTED IN NO PARTICULAR ORDER"



2019 Architecture Gold
Cloud of Luster Chapel. Design by KTX ARCHILAB



2020 Shortlisted Interior Design
SUGALABO V, Le Café V by NOMURA Co., Ltd. A.N.D.



2019 Architecture Shortlisted
Tower of Bricks. Design by Interval Architects



2019 Architecture Shortlisted
Second Home in a Mountain. Design by Gen Inoue



2020 Bronze Interior Design
SHIBUYA SKY. Design by RHIZOMATIKS



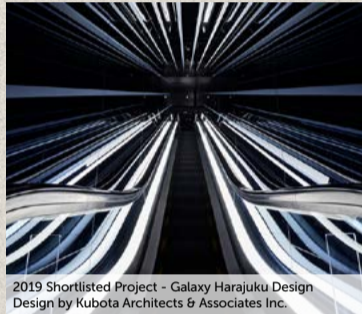
2021 Interior Design Shortlisted
The Ritz-Carlton Nikko Spa & Onsen
Design by Nikken Space Design Ltd



2019 Interior Design Gold - WUHAN WUSHANG MALL
CINEMA 9F. Design by ONE PLUS PARTNERSHIP LIMITED



2019 Gold - Alfred Ehrhardt (1901-1984)
Design by Endo Architect and Associates



2019 Shortlisted Project - Galaxy Harajuku Design
Design by Kubota Architects & Associates Inc.



2021 Industrial Design Gold - non electric aroma diffuser
(LEI) by SOL style



2019 Shortlisted Project - Stones
Design by IJIMA DESIGN



2019 Gold Winning Project - Classic Craft, Modern
Meaning: Tram #61 Exhibition by CeeKayEllo Limited.

Recognising the worth of the awards programme, public bodies such as the Japan Commercial Environmental Design Association and the Hong Kong Design Centre (2019) came on board together with an impressive array of supporting companies and sponsors. The trajectory of support is phenomenal.

The range of design projects nominated and awarded is also phenomenal. Take the architecture category of 2020, when the top five shortlisted projects included projects of international repute such as Cloud of Luster Chapel in Himeji, Hyōgo Prefecture, designed by KTX archiLAB; Y Residence in Samokov, Bulgaria, designed by A.N.D (Aoyama Nomura Design); and Second Home in a Mountain, designed by Gen Inoue as a second home for himself and his family on land at the foot of the Tanzawa Mountains. Jump forward to 2022 and this category includes cutting-edge projects such as K Farm by Avoid Obvious Architects, an aquaponics & hydroponics urban farm; The Axis of Peace by Hakuten Corporation, a monument for Peace Central Park in Yokosuka, which won the gold award; and A House with a Hidden Openness by IDAHOMES. All are inspirational.

The range of shortlisted and awarded interior design projects is equally stellar with categories ranging from commercial to residential. The gold winner of the product category was bitter-sweet given that it was awarded to Kumono Design Inc. & Sumika Acryl Co. for developing an unique covid screen system.

Peggy Lui is clear in her vision and passion for developing the awards. Her mantra is 'The power of now'. In posing the question to her for this special edition of One Story, 'The future: what does it hold for Sky Design Awards?', her answer was simple. 'Limitless'.

SKY DESIGN AWARDS | EXECUTIVE ADVISORS & INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (IAC)

To us, the sky is everything. We look up into the heavens above the surface of the Earth and see a limitless sky. Astronomers have been known to call all that we see the celestial sphere. Viewed from Earth's surface, the sky appears as if an abstract dome on which the Sun, stars, planets and Moon are travelling. The Chinese and Japanese languages give the character 'sky' the significance of being drawn as man, his arms outstretched, and above him a line representing the greatness of the sky. In our daily lives, design and architecture embody the greatness of the abstract dome (form) and discipline of the straight line (function). In designing the Sky Design Awards trophy, we created the character for 'Sky' in three-dimensional form. One of the main focus points of the Sky Design Awards is the creation of an Experience Centre where we can provide opportunities for designers to meet overseas clients and be introduced to projects around the globe.

Sky Design Awards is now considered to be one of the most renowned specialized design industry awards in the Asia Pacific, enabling the design industry - product, interior, architectural and spatial - to exchange and share information and ideas. This year's Sky Design Awards will again take place in Tokyo, Japan. Our Awards Exhibition and Experience Centre will for the first time be extended to showcase the work of international design practices from across the globe.



PEGGY LUI
Founder of Sky Design Awards
 Founder & Editor in Chief of Merci Media Corporation
 2017-2020 Co. Chair of Communication and event of Retail Design Institute HK Centre
 2021 KUKAN Design Awards Judges (Japan)



SCOTT BROOKS
Founder of Imagennix s
 Sky Design Awards Executive Advisor Committee (EAC)
 Chair, Strategy and Development Advisory Council of the AIA Hong Kong Chapter



TOMOHISA NAGAI
Executive producer of Ted Associates.
 Sky Design Awards Board Advisor (Non-Executive Co-Chairman)
 Vice President of JCD (Japan Commerce and Environment Design Association)
 Member of JDCA (Japan Design Consultants Association)
 Core Member of IDM (Japan Interior Design Conference)
 Member of KUKAN (Space Design Organization)
 Member of Japan Space Design



DAISHI YOSHIMOTO
President of Yoshimoto Associates Inc
 Sky Design Awards - The International Advisory Committee (IAC)
 Japan Representative, AIA International Region (American Institute of Architects Japan Chapter)



CHARLES CHAU
 Sky Design Awards Board Advisor (Non-Executive Co-Chairman)



MANUEL RABATÉ
Director of Louvre Abu Dhabi
 Sky Design Awards The International Advisory Committee (IAC)



WILLIAM TO
Executive Director of PMQ
 Sky Design Awards The International Advisory Committee (IAC)



MANFRED YUEN
Founder of Groundwork Architecture + Urbanism (London)
Co-Founder of Groundwork Architects + Associates (Hong Kong & Shenzhen)
 Sky Design Awards The International Advisory Committee (IAC)

ONE STORY, ONE INTERVIEW

FOR ME, THE MOMENT IS NOW.

Congratulations on the Fifth Anniversary for Sky Design Awards! This year is a landmark year for the Awards. As Sky Design Awards Founder, I would like to ask you to retrace the steps in your journey over the past five years. What was the original impetus for the awards?

Thank you so much. I cannot believe it has already been five years since the first Sky Design Awards. The original impetus for the awards was my wish to connect people. My vision was to create opportunities for designers to work with different brands around the world. Several companies had approached me around that time asking me to help them to find the right designer for their project. From my experience of working in design in Hong Kong and Japan, I knew the 'missing pieces of the jigsaw' that were preventing those companies from finding the right designer. Fitting together those missing pieces would, I realised, bring opportunities for both the designers and companies that were out there.

How did you go about linking companies and designers?

When companies came to me to find the right candidate, my first step was to review their project brief against potential designers' portfolios and profiles. I did not want to set up an agency; I simply wanted to find the right matches and make the right connections. At that time, many designers lacked a visible profile. I could see that, once I had gathered more information on them, I could help to match them to potential clients.

In conversation with designers, you found that many were unfamiliar with other designers locally and globally. How did this awareness feed into the establishment of the design awards?

It was a surprise to me to find that many designers were not familiar with one another locally or globally. I could see that opportunities would arise for them if they could meet up at business casual or business matching events. That is how the idea came about. If I could create an award, I realised that I could develop the connections that were missing between designers and companies and designers and designers. I began to formulate the view that increasing awareness was critical not only within the profession but the wider general public.

Before you had the idea to create Sky Design Awards, you were active over several years in assisting the RIBA Hong Kong Chapter. One involvement was with women architects. Will you say more about how you helped the HK Chapter to bring the work of women architects to the fore?

In 2017, the RIBA HK Chapter selected nine women to share their perspectives on practising architecture in Hong Kong. Despite not being an architect, I was selected as one of them. I was able to share my belief in

working together – myself as a member of the media working with professional architects - to co-curate programmes. I appreciated the Chapter counting me in.

You describe the awards as being like 'the limitless sky', in creating opportunities for designers. Was this ambition embedded in the awards from the outset?

I believe so. In creating the Sky Design Awards, I had foreseen the opportunities that better connections and cross-disciplinary channels could bring about.

You chose to base Sky Design Awards in Tokyo, your adopted home. Did your move to Tokyo happen before the decision to locate in Tokyo or as a result of that decision?

It was always a pleasure to travel to Japan for business meetings. I decided to base the awards in Japan given its global appeal and that it was where much of the interest in having conversations between companies and designers was happening. Initially, I did not intend to live in Japan, but practicalities led to my staying on in Tokyo. Having lived in Japan now for some years, I realised how much I love this country, its culture and people. I have experienced many wonderful times here and am still learning a lot through daily living. I believe that destiny brought me to this beautiful country.

You have assembled an illustrious set of judges over the years. How do you go about inviting judges to become involved in the awards?

The judges from 2019 onwards were professionals who I knew as friends or as interviewees for Merci Magazine, which I founded ten years ago. I am also happy to knock on doors to meet people. I find that when I approach them with my vision and insight for the awards, they are happy to agree to form part of our judging panel.

Your aim for the designers is to 'expand their potential and broaden their horizons'. How has Sky Design Awards been a catalyst in this?

From the outset, I have worked hard to ensure that designers maximise the opportunities that connecting with companies and other designers at our awards events and exhibitions bring about. I enjoy keeping in touch with designers and finding new possibilities for them. The more international the cross-section of entrants, the broader the horizons for all. From an initial 75% of entrants coming from practices and designers in Japan, our entrants are becoming more international, year on year.



What was the inspiration for naming the awards trophy a 'sky design bridge'?

I designed the awards trophy to represent a bridge with the sun on top. The trophy symbolises my aim in all I strive to do to enable cross-disciplinary work for designers and companies. I think 'Sky Design Bridge' is a more memorable name than simply calling the symbol of the award a 'Trophy'.

In naming your new B2B platform Noetic, you are saying clearly that Sky Design Awards values 'inner knowing - an intuitive consciousness grounded in reason'. It is an inspirational name for the sourcebook of designers who have been award winners. How do you see Noetic integrating into Sky Design Awards?

Our vision is to create an integrated platform to expand the possibilities for Sky Design Awards short-listed and awarded designers by enabling companies to more easily match with them. We are working hard to create a B2B platform that is innovative and intuitive in matching designers/design businesses to clients/company businesses.

What does the future hold for you? How does your philosophy of 'limitless sky' integrate into the future of Sky Design Awards?

I do visualise the future, but am more focused on the power of now. I believe that we create our history not in the future, but in the now. For me, the idea of the limitless sky is a canvas on which to draw yourself or other imagined realities. When situations become something of a puzzle, I believe that visualising the problem as if on a canvas helps to make sense of them. Visualising a limitless sky gives me inspiration and encouragement. I am honoured and humbled to be marking five years of Sky Design Awards and look forward to all that this year and future years will bring.

2023 JUDGING PANEL

“ALL LISTED IN NO PARTICULAR ORDER”



TADAO KAMEI
The Chairman of the Board of Directors
Nikken Sekkei.



J LEE ROFKIND
HOK's regional leader of Hospitality Design in the Asia Pacific Region
FAIA/ LEED AP



DANIELA HOLT VOITH
Founding partner of Voith & Mactavish Architects LLP
President, ICAA Philadelphia Chapter & the Board of the Design Leadership Foundation.
FAIA, LEED AP BD+C, IIDA/ FAIA/ LEED AP



LUCA ALBERO
Creative Visual Merchandising Director at Christian Dior Couture



ANNE-MARIE BUEMANN
Managing Partner at OEO Studio



THOMAS LYKKE
Head of Design & Founding Partner at OEO Studio



ED NG
Principal and Co-Founder of ab concept.



KOICHI TANAKA
Founder and CEO, and Director of LIGHTLINKS

ARCHITECTURE WINNING PROJECTS



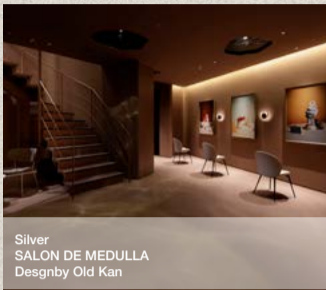
Gold
THE AXIS OF PEACE
Design by Hakuten Corporation



Silver
GOOD CYCLE BUILDING 001 Asanuma Corporation
Nagoya Branch Office Renovation
Design by Nori Architects and Asanuma Corporation



Bronze
Music Hall in the Sky
Design by Takuro Yamamoto Architects



Silver
SALON DE MEDULLA
Design by Old Kan



Silver
Zeng Fengfei Apparel Cultural Center
Design by Fancy Design



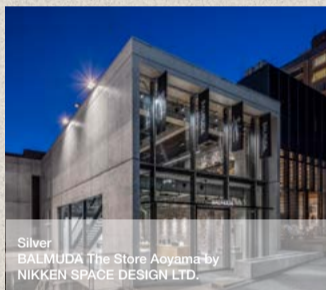
Bronze
MITSUI DESIGNTEC NEW OFFICE PROJECT
Design by MITSUI Designtec Co., Ltd.



Silver
GUNDAM GLOBAL CHALLENGE
GUNDAM STATUE



Bronze
KIUCHI 100 YEARS HISTORY GALLERY by
NOMURA Co., Ltd. Design



Silver
BALMUDA The Store Aoyama by
NIKKEN SPACE DESIGN LTD.



INTERIOR DESIGN
WINNING PROJECTS

Restaurants



INTERIOR DESIGN
WINNING PROJECTS

Retail & Spatial

INTERIOR DESIGN WINNING PROJECTS

Commercial and office



Gold
Goodman BUSINESS PARK
Design by Kamitopen



Silver
Business Brain Showa-Ota Inc. Office relocation
project. Design by Nomura Co., Ltd.



INTERIOR DESIGN
WINNING PROJECTS

Exhibition & Pop Up



Gold
DEJI ART MUSEUM by
Design by THE TRIANGLE JPCO., LTD Design



Gold
Yulin - Ueno Bookstore
Design by BDSO Boundless Design



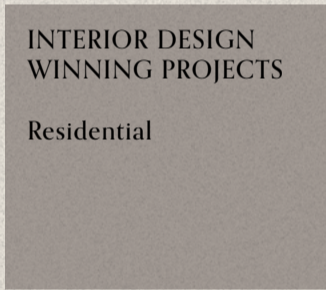
Silver
STUDIOUS Marunouchi
Design by ODS / Oniki Design Studio



Silver
% Arabica Traveling Chameleon Kiosk
Design by no.10, NOMURA Co., Ltd.

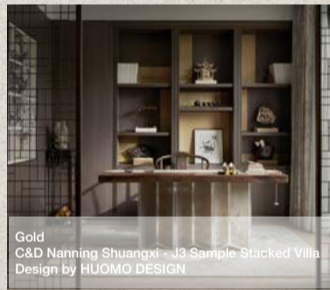


Bronze
Tokyo Saiken Teahouse
Design by Tamaki Design Studio



INTERIOR DESIGN
WINNING PROJECTS

Residential



Gold
C&D Nanning Shuangxi - J3 Sample Stacked Villa
Design by HUOMO DESIGN



Silver
House in TATEYAMA
design by RON DESIGN from Japan



Silver
The Relaxation in Art
Design by HELIANGYI Design



Bronze
Kowloon Penthouse, Hong Kong
Design by Hintegro Limited



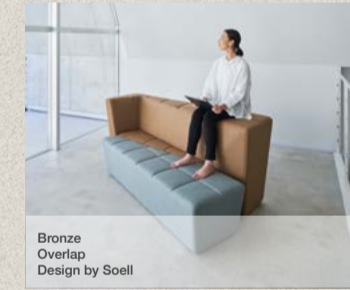
PRODUCT DESIGN
WINNING PROJECTS



Gold
DESIGNER'S ACRYL PARTITION *Collaboration with
iRAUm® KUMONO DESIGN INC. x SUMIKA ACRYL
CO., LTD iRAUm® KAZUKI KUMONO x YOKO



Silver
MATE
Design by Modernform Group Public Company Limited



Bronze
Overlap
Design by Soell

The Internet fundamentally changed the buying process. Today, consumers and B2B buyers routinely conduct their research online before even making contact with a vendor. However, many find overwhelming the unlimited access to information. In the main, existing resources comprise long lists of service providers and suppliers. While these lists are useful, they do not of themselves reduce the work required to make a selection. For example, lists of the top 300 architecture firms –or top 100, or even top 50– still need to be investigated. What are the firm’s strengths and weaknesses? Are their methodologies suited to our needs? What is their overall style? Will the firm adapt to our requirements? Are they interested in taking on our assignment? This process is time consuming and prone to subjective judgments.

Large firms with dedicated staffing are equipped to handle the workload, but even they rely on outside consultants or fall back on vendors they know and have placed on favoured supplier lists, making discovery of new talent difficult at best. Similarly, for service providers, industry lists of developers give no indication of need or readiness to procure services. Compounding the challenge, client design briefs are inconsistent and often incomplete, which can lead to inaccuracies in estimating workload and inefficient delivery down the line. Through our Sky Design Awards programmes, and with the support of numerous design industry associations, we have cultivated a close network of award-winning and best-in-class service providers, materials suppliers and skilled artisans. We have the ability to engage this network for our design clients in order to create an exchange that streamlines the commissioning process.

Our goal is to support our clients by sharing our knowledge, helping them to enter new markets and grow their businesses. We offer advice on business development, market entry, client communications, and other relevant practices to help our clients to avoid common pitfalls and develop their businesses more effectively. Buyers are already recognising the benefits of our network and commissioning us to find architects, designers, and unusual material suppliers for their creative projects globally.

SKY DESIGN AWARDS

Like the limitless sky, the Sky Design Awards aims to create opportunities for designers to expand their potential and broaden their horizons. The Sky Design Awards was established by Merci Magazine, a company active in the design industry.

The Sky Design Awards celebrates achievement in design excellence for projects that deliver meaningful social impact in the areas of architecture, interior design, visual art & graphic design, and industrial design.

The Sky Design Awards endeavours to create opportunities for collaboration between designers and companies in the Asia Pacific region and internationally. We strive to empower design professionals to hone their skills and creative development through our awards recognition, design dialogue and experience hub. We hope to encourage and nurture creative exchange and collaborative relationships with design peers and companies around the world.

IN 2021, the Sky Design Awards announced the addition of a new award, The New Black. The New Black Award is for young architects and designers (under 38) or small projects that push the boundaries of innovation to accomplish project goals in each of the four categories.

<https://www.skydesignawards.com>

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