

The clear line

Toan Nguyen founded his Milan studio in 2009, embarking on a series of successful collaborations with several major brands in high-quality industry and fine craftsmanship in Europe, North America, and Asia, on furniture, lighting, ceramics, as well as on technological products.

Toan Nguyen combines auteur design and the demands of industry with ease. Above and beyond the economic logic inherent to his projects, he strives to open up perspectives for optimization, offering each company the targeted aesthetic or functional resources they require for further development and image building.

A graduate of the ENSCI (Paris) in 1995, his diploma topic presented a foretaste of his individuality: detail in architecture, focusing particularly on technology in the public arena. Such beginnings highlight his attention to detail—a fundamental component of the craft, irrigated by a pronounced interest in industrial manufacturing processes and in how end users appropriate products. Over many years, he has honed this deceptively paradoxical approach during his experiences in Barcelona with Alberto Lievore and in Italy with Antonio Citterio, with whom he has co-signed many lines, for, among others, Axor-Hansgrohe, B&B Italia, Flos, Iittala, Kartell, Technogym, and Vitra.

For Toan Nguyen design is a discipline intimately bound up with the object, in the traditional sense of the term. Priority is given to physical relationships with users—to them sitting, washing, lighting, etc. Displaying an immediate sense for meaningful utilization, precedence is accorded to intelligible forms and to optimized manufacturing processes, without, however, ever neglecting the sensuality of materials and the emotional impact of the object. Toan Nguyen's creative singularity has been acknowledged by flagship contemporary design brands such as Dedon, Laufen, Fendi Casa, Coalesse, Studio TK, Vibia, Viccarbe, Walter Knoll, Lema, Busnelli, among others.

Toan Nguyen is one of a handful of designers who manages to juggle commercial success and impactful communication, a demanding duality that reinforces the impact of each collaboration. Since 2009, Toan Nguyen's creations have carried off numerous international prizes: a Red Dot Design Award in 2010 for the stool/side-table, Bellows, issued by Walter Knoll; a Red Dot Design Award in 2012 for the Antero sanitary line developed by Laufen; the Best of Neocon Award 2013 for the Lagunitas system by Coalesse; in 2014 the Elle Decoration Russia Award for the Cocoon sofa for Fendi Casa; the ISH Design Plus Award 2015 for the Ino line with Laufen; a Good Design Award in 2015 with Infinito Lounge and Masalla by Studio TK; the Archiproducts Design Award's First Prize 2016 for Algorithm, a lighting system for Vibia, also awarded Interior Design's Best of Year Award in 2017; and again in 2017, the Dual Lounge seating with Studio TK won the Interior Design's HiP Award, Interior Design's Best of Year Award and the Best of Neocon award.

Toan Nguyen's designs are made to last, making enduring contributions to a brand's success and enhancing its visibility; every project undertaken pushes frontiers and takes up fresh challenges.

Key Dates

1969 Birth in Paris

1989 Starts at the ENSCI-Les Ateliers (Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Création Industrielle) in Paris

1991 Experience with Alberto Lievore in Barcelona

1995 Graduates from the ENSCI

1998 Starts working with Antonio Citterio

2000 Design Manager then Design Partner of Antonio Citterio with whom he cosigned more than forty products together with companies such as Axor-Hansgrohe, B&B Italia, Flos, Iittala, Kartell, Technogym and Vitra

2008 Founds his own agency in Milan and initiates immediately successful partnerships with several leading brands in contemporary design such as Walter Knoll, Dedon, Viccarbe, Laufen, Lema, Fendi Casa, Coalesse, Vibia, Studio TK

2010 Bellows collection for Walter Knoll wins the Red Dot Award

2012 Red Dot Award for the Antero urinal for Laufen

2013 Lagunitas range with Coalesse gains the Best of NeoCon Award

2014 Fendi Casa Cocoon sofa winner of the Best Furniture of the Year Award by Elle Decoration Russia

2015 Ino for Laufen in SaphirKeramik wins the ISH Design Plus Award

2015 Infinito Lounge and Masalla for Studio TK win the Good Design Award

2016 Algorithm, designed for Vibia, wins the Archiproducts Design Awards first prize

2017 Dual Lounge seating collection for Studio TK wins Interior Design's HiP Awards

2017 - Dual Lounge seating collection for Studio TK wins the Interior Design's Best of Year Award

2017 - Algorithm, designed for Vibia, wins the Interior Design's Best of Year Award

2017 - Dual Lounge seating collection for Studio TK wins the Chicago Athenaeum's Good Design Award