

ETTORE SOTTASS

Ettore Sottsass was born at Innsbruck, Austria, in 1917. He graduated in architecture at the Turin Polytechnic in 1939. In 1947 he opened his own practice in Milan, where he worked on architecture and design projects.

Alongside his architectural and design activity he developed his cultural pursuits. Ettore Sottsass has taken part in various Milan Triennales, and exhibited in group and solo shows in Italy and abroad. He is recognized for his international role in the renewal of design in the years leading up to the Second World War and in those that followed immediately after it. In 1958 he began his collaboration with Olivetti as a design consultant. Among other things he designed, in 1959, the first Italian electronic calculator, and subsequently a number of peripherals and calculating systems and typewriters such as Praxis, Tekne, Editor and Valentine, the last of which is now part of the permanent collection in the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

After a long lecture tour of British universities, in 1976 he received an honorary degree from the Royal College of Art in London.

In 1981, with collaborators, friends and architects of international repute, he set up the Memphis group, which quickly became the symbol of 'new design' and a landmark for the contemporary artistic avant-gardes. In the same year he founded the Sottsass Associati partnership, with whom he has continued his career as an architect and designer. There are works by Ettore Sottsass in the permanent collections of major museums worldwide: New York, Paris, Sydney, Denver, Stockholm, London, San Francisco, Toronto, Jerusalem, Barcelona, ...

Amongst the many honours that have been conferred to Sottsass are: the title of Officier of the Order of Arts and Letters of the French Republic in 1992, an honorary degree from the Rhode Island School of Design in the United States in 1993, the IF Award Design Kopfe from the Industrie Forum Design in Hanover in 1994, the title of Honorary Doctor of the Royal College of Art in London, and the Award Design from the Brooklyn Museum of New York in 1996, the Oribe Award from the town of Gifu in Japan in 1997, an honorary degree from the Glasgow School of Art in 1999, an honorary degree from the London Institute of Art, an honorary degree in Industrial Design from the Milan Polytechnic and the title of Grande Ufficiale per l'Ordine al Merito from the President of the Italian Republic in 2001.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

on Ettore Sottsass

- F. De Castro, Ettore Sottsass: scrap-book, Milano, 1976
A.V., Kontinuitat von leben und werk: 1955-1975 von Ettore Sottsass, Berlin, 1976
A.V., Ettore Sottsass: de l'object fini a la fin de l'object, M. Art Decoratif, Paris, 1976
I. Gaon, Ettore Sottsass Jr., Israel Museum, Jerusalem, 1978
B. Radice, Memphis: the new international style, Electa, Milano, 1981
P. Sparke, Ettore Sottsass Jr., Design Council, London, 1982
A. Martorana, Ettore Sottsass: progetti di un designer italiano, Firenze, 1983
B. Radice, Memphis, Electa, Milano, 1984
G. Sambonet, Ettore Sottsass: mobili e arredamenti, Mondadori, Milano 1985
R. Horn, Memphis: object, furniture and pattern, Running Pr., Philadelphia, 1985
G. De Bure, Ettore Sottsass Jr, Rivages, Paris, 1987
A.V., Ettore Sottsass: drawings over four decades, Ikon, Frankfurt, 1990
J. Burney, Ettore Sottsass, Trefoil, Londra, 1991
P. Thomé, Ettore Sottsass Jr. De l'object a l'environnement, Ginevra 1991
B. Radice, Ettore Sottsass, Electa, Milano, 1993
H. Hoger, Ettore Sottsass jr., Wasmuth, Berlin, 1993
A.V., Ettore Sottsass, Centre Georege Pompidou, Paris, 1994
F. Ferrari, Ettore Sottsass: tutta la ceramica, Allemandi, Torino, 1996
M. Carboni, B. Radice, Ettore Sottsass: scritti 1946/2002, Neri Pozza Editore, Milano, 2002
M. Carboni, B. Radice, Ettore Sottsass. Metaphors, Skirà, Milano, 2002

on Sottsass Associati

- A.V., Sottsass Associati, Rizzoli International, New York, 1988
A.V., Sottsass Associati: arret sur l'image, ed. L'Archivoltò, Milano, 1993
A. V., 12 Interiors - Sottsass Associati, Terrazzo, Milano, 1998
M. Carboni, Sottsass Associati: 1980/1999 frammenti, Rizzoli, Milano, 1999
M. Carboni, The work of Ettore Sottsass and Associates, Universe, New York, 1999

by Ettore Sottsass

- Miljo for en ny planet, National Museum, Stoccolm, 1969
Esercizio Formale, Milano, 1979
Esercizio Formale n°2, Studio Forma/Alchimia, Milano, 1980
Curio cabinet, mirror, chairs, tables, Blum Helman Gallery, New York, 1987
C'est pas facile la vie, il Melangolo, Milano, 1987
Bharata, Design Gallery, Milano, 1988
Design Metaphors, Idea Books, Milano, 1988
Advanced Studies 1986-1990, Yamagiwa Art Fundation, Tokyo, 1990
Rovine, Design Gallery, Milano, 1992
La darrera oportunitat d'esser avantguarda, C. Art Santa Monica, Barcelona, 1993
Adesso però - Reiseerinnerungen, Hatje Verlag, Hamburg, 1994
Ceramics, Stemmler, Zurigo, 1995
Walls, Terrazzo ed. , Milano, 1995
Big & Small Works, Gallery Mourmans, Knokke, 1995
Memorie de Chine, Gallery Mourmans, Knokke, 1996
The curious Mr Sottsass., Thames & Hudson, London, 1996
151 Drawings, Gallery Ma, Tokyo, 1997
Architetture indiane e dintorni, Napoli, 1998
Lo specchio di Saffo, Postdesign, Milano, 1998
Glass Works, Vitrum, Venezia, 1998
Epifanie Brevi, Atelier Lytos, Como, 1998
Trattato di architettura , Atelier Lytos, Como, 1999
Mobili Lunghi, Postdesign, Milano, 2000
Esercizi di Viaggio, Aragno, Torino, 2001
Esercizi, Alberico Cetti Serbelloni Editore, Milano, 2002

Exhibitions

- 1946 Palais des Beaux-Art, Parigi
- 1947 VIII Triennale di Milano
- 1954 X Triennale di Milano
- 1955 Galleria del Naviglio, Milano
- 1955 Galleria del Cavallino, Venezia
- 1957 XI Triennale di Milano,
- 1957 Galleria il Sestante, Milano
- 1958 Galleria il Sestante, Milano
- 1960 XII Triennale di Milano
- 1961 Bolles Gallery, S. Francisco
- 1961 Goldsmit's Hall, London
- 1963 Biennale d'Arte Contemporanea, Bari
- 1963 Galleria il Sestante, Milano
- 1964 Galleria Aquilone, Firenze
- 1964 Galleria il Sestante, Milano
- 1964 Galleria Tornabuoni, Firenze
- 1965 Galleria Sperone, Torino
- 1965 Palazzo Strozzi, Firenze
- 1965 Libreria Feltrinelli, Milano
- 1966 Centro Fly Casa, Milano
- 1967 Galleria Sperone, Genova
- 1968 Museum of Modern Art, New York
- 1968 Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam
- 1968 Design Center, Milano
- 1969 Museum of Modern Art, New York
- 1969 Sverige Arckitecturmuseum, Stoccolma
- 1969 Galleria la Nuova Loggia, Bologna
- 1969 Galleria il Sestante, Milano
- 1972 Museum of Modern Art, New York
- 1975 Museum of Modern Art, New York
- 1976 Cooper-Hewitt Museum, New York
- 1976 Design Zentrum, Berlin
- 1976 Biennale di Venezia
- 1976 Centro de Diseño Industrial, Barcelona
- 1976 Visual Art Board, Sidney
- 1978 The Israel Museum, Jerusalem
- 1978 Biennale di Venezia
- 1980 Forum Design, Linz
- 1981 Axis Galley, Tokyo
- 1982 Padiglione d'Arte Contemporanea, Milano,
- 1985 Cooper-Hewitt Museum, New York
- 1985 The Israel Museum, Gerusalemme
- 1985 XVII Triennale di Milano
- 1986 Musée d'Art Contemporaine, Lione
- 1987 Blum Helmann Gallery, New York
- 1987 Documenta 8, Kassel
- 1988 Design Gallery, Milano
- 1989 Yamaghwa Art Foundation, Tokyo
- 1990 Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam
- 1991 Palazzo Strozzi, Firenze
- 1991 Biennale di Venezia
- 1993 Deichtorhallen Museum, Amburgo
- 1993 Centre d'Art Santa Monica, Barcellona
- 1993 Vitra Design Museum, Weil-am-Rhein
- 1994 Centre Georges Pompidou, Parigi
- 1994 Gallery Bischofberger, Zurigo
- 1996 Design Gallery, Milano
- 1996 Gallery Bischofberger, Zurigo
- 1996 Biennale di Venezia

1996 Galleria Dessa, Lubliana
1996 The Gallery Mourmans, Knokke
1997 Gallery Ma, Tokyo
1997 Gallery Binnen, Amsterdam
1999 Centro per l'Arte Contemporanea L. Pecci, Prato
1999 Glasgow School of Art, Glasgow
1999 Bonnefante Museum, Maastricht
1999 Niitsu Art Forum, Niigata
1999 Living Design Center Ozone, Tokyo
2000 Museum of Modern Art, Gifu
2000 Suntory Museum, Osaka
2000 Marugame Museum of Contemporary Art, Japan
2000 Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago
2002 Biennale di Venezia
2003 Museum für Angewandte Kunst, Köln
2003 Museo d'Arte Moderna, Roma
2004 Museo di Capodimonte, Napoli