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2024 Special Edition

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEWS

Vincenzo de Cotiis
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+7 Australian designers reveal new products

Milano

260 PAGES OF CONCEPTS, CONVERSATIONS & CREATIVITY

DESIGN UNBOUND

Seven Australian designers took to Milan's global stage to unveil new products and design collaborations.

Interviews
Sophie Lewis

Christopher Boots

CRUX

Via Ciovasso 17, 20121 Milano MI, Italy

Congratulations on the launch of your latest luminary series 'CRUX'. Where did the idea for 'CRUX' begin, and how does it reflect a new direction for your studio?

I've always loved the night skies, eyeing the constellations above. 'CRUX' was inspired by a desire to honour our place in the southern hemisphere. As an object, it represents a new practice for us – exploring new materials and stepping beyond our signature work with quartz crystals. We were drawn to the organic, magical quality of hand-blown glass and partnered with the amazing folks at Hothaus in Melbourne. With their know-how and our curiosity, we dove headfirst into exploring natural forms. This has been a thrilling chapter for our studio, evolving our work while staying true to a high calibre of craftsmanship.

Can you share more about the inspiration behind the collection, in particular, the Southern Cross star constellation?

'CRUX', commonly called the Southern Cross, is one of the most identifiable constellations in the southern sky and a guide for travellers since ancient times. It's a recognisable symbol with deep meanings here in the Southern Hemisphere. With 'CRUX', I wanted to capture that guiding light and form of the stars into a tangible form of beauty, a reminder of our universe. Each piece in the collection brings a bit of that starlight indoors.

How have you explored new methods and materials, such as blown glass and brass finishes, through pendant and sconce variations?

We've been experimenting with blown glass to see how it plays with light, partnering with local artisans to get it just right. Chasing the magical, fluid quality of glass is like capturing the unpredictability of space. Pairing with the solid, earthy feel of brass, it balances out to create a balance that sings.

Why did you decide to present/launch 'CRUX' in Milan as part of Fuorisalone?

Why wouldn't you? Milan is the nexus of design, creative energy, and new ideas. Launching the 'CRUX' collection there allows us to bring our work to those who truly appreciate innovation, beauty, and craftsmanship beyond our own shores.

How did you approach the exhibition design for 'CRUX' in Milan?

I thought of Antoine De Saint Exupery's book, The Little Prince. He steps onto a small moonlit planet suspended in starry, untamed night. The 'CRUX' exhibit was designed to feel like stepping into another world: early, rocky, and under a night sky filled with stars.

Lastly, how was the furniture collection received?

Feedback on 'CRUX' has been overwhelmingly positive. It's super encouraging to see people connect with our design and appreciate how we incorporated elements of the night sky into each piece. That kind of reception makes all the risk-taking and late nights totally worth it.

Milan is cultural oxygen. A quote by Isabelle Olson comes to mind: "The role of the designer is to rehearse the future." If you're interested in creating a better future worth living in, Milan offers that opportunity, a place and time for conversations and connections on the global design stage.

Photography Annika Kafcaloudis

Previous page: 'CRUX', a new luminary series by Melbourne-based lighting designer Christopher Boots, marks the first time the designer has worked with blown glass.

This page: Christopher Boots designed the 'CRUX' exhibition during Milan Design Week to emulate a night sky filled with stars, echoing the Southern Cross constellation inspiration behind the series.