

„must have from Poland” is an exhibition, which is a continuation of the plebiscite connected with the exposition „must have”, developed in 2011 at the request of Łódź Design Festival. At that time, a group of experts selected 150 most interesting objects designed by Polish designers, that were manufactured. Later on, the group chose 42 winning products from all the nominees. The exhibition in Milan presents 25 of them. They are examples of a wise and sensible strategy of investing in design and a reflection of the current trends in Polish industrial design.

These products are different, but each has a story. Here is how they came into existence:

OUT OF THE NEED

Maja Zalewska and Marek Kostykiewicz founded the company called **Cable Power** when they couldn't find a nice cable. The company produces the simplest lamps in the world – light bulbs suspended on colourful cables.

Filip Domaszczyński, Marta Nowosielska and Dorota Sibińska were looking for nice furniture for children and invented the brand **Locomoco**, which has been producing creative, modular furniture for kids.

Farida and Krzysztof Dubielowie used to build creative toys from cardboard for their children. Today they have a family Toy Factory **Trzy Myszy**.

Agnieszka Kwiecińska started her business **MIUKI** by sewing a soft bed for her daughter Miłka.

Marta Hryniak sewed the first **Laloushka**, which is a doll/portrait, as a gift for her friend.

COMING FROM FOLK ROOTS

Joanna Rusin designs alternative felt carpets; „Pasanka” is an interpretation of striped skirts from Łowicz.

Katarzyna Herman-Janiec (Protein Design), inspired by an ordinary bucket, created Weavies – seats and containers in one.

The porcelain surface of „Jakubki” by **Karina Marusińska**, was marked with the texture of natural materials: paper, linen, wood and wicker.

Fabriqa, or Małgorzata Gajewicz and Ewa Nowakowska, produce their fabrics in small Polish manufactures, only from natural yarns.

The pillow „Cousin Cuento” by **Katarzyna Cebulak / Mudo Design**, reminds us of the rich tradition of Polish linen.

THE MEMOIRS

Jadwiga Husarska-Chmielarz dug through the archives of the old **Paged** factory and, using old catalogues, photographs and technical drawings, she resumed the production of the **Marian Sigmund's** chair „Sig1” from 1957.

Justyna Burzyńska and Maciek Lebedowicz (Pan tu nie stał) presented Polish projects from the 60s, 70s and 80s on the blog. Then they started to make clothes and books. The book "Siała Baba Mak", illustrated by

Katarzyna Bogucka, is a nod to the graphic aesthetics of the 50s.

Maciej Kukurba from **Pan Poppi** refers to the craft traditions of the nineteenth century. He says that his pieces are cut to suit one's individual needs. His furniture is well adjusted and „lies like a glove” in every home.

CONCERN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Kafti Design is a brand created by sisters: **Monika Brauntsch and Sonia Słaboń**. They make lamps, manufactured locally, in a way that is responsible and safe for the environment.

The group **Tabanda**, or **Małgorzata Malinowska, Filip Ludka and Tomasz Kempa**, deliberately limit the amount of waste by using it in their next projects.

Magda Kałek and Kamil Jurzykowski, the founders of **Studio Ah&Oh**, helped to design a chain of stores with organic cosmetics **Phenome**. They also promote the idea – Phenome is the first cosmetic brand in Poland that declares to collect used packaging.

DESPITE THE LIMITATIONS

Oskar Zięta (Zieta Prozessdesign), works and lives in Poland and Switzerland. He invented and developed a unique technology **FIDU** that allows to make three-dimensional objects from two thin steel plates.

Johanna Ocias lives and works in Sweden; over there she created a brand called **Stockholm Werkstätte**, where she designs sophisticated furniture with details referring to the ribbed pattern on the Doric columns.

AS A RESULT OF SKILLFUL DESIGN MANAGEMENT

Janusz Obtulowicz, the president and founder of **Iker**, believes that business success depends largely on the creativity of designers. Sofa **NEXT** was designed by architects **Wierszyłowski & designers**.

Ryszard Balcerkiewicz, the owner of the brand **NOTI**, cooperates with leading Polish designers. Tables "Plum" refer to the aesthetics of the 60s and they were designed by **Tomasz Augustyniak**.

Heater **Ribbon**, designed by **Bartłomiej Drabik**, is the result of a cyclic competition organized by the company **Terma Technologie**, dedicated to young designers.

The result of the collaboration of **Amica**, that produces home appliances, and the studio **Code Design**, including its founder **Marek Biernacki**, is a new line of home appliances **Integra**.

The publishing house **Dwie Siostry**, founded by three friends: **Joanna Rzyska, Ewa Stiasny and Jadwiga Jędras**, educates children through illustrations. The book „D.E.S.I.G.N.” was illustrated by **Hipopotam Studio : Aleksandra and Daniel Mizieliński**, text written by **Ewa Solarz**.

Emilia Jakubowska, the founder and originator of the brand **Lilyshop**, produces hand-made goods from felt. At the exhibition she presents **hopscotch**, a home version of the popular backyard game.

Items shown at the „must have from Poland” exhibition are not unique, they are being produced and are available to buy. They are produced not only by large and well known companies, but also small family businesses, and even friendly initiatives. The products are different, but each of them represents good design, innovative approach to a project, ergonomic solution and of course, great quality.

Ewa Solarz

The project is co-organized by the Adam Mickiewicz Institute.



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