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_About Erdem Akan

Erdem Akan is a designer, design manager, art director, curator, lecturer and co-founder of *maybedesign*. But rather than these, Erdem prefers to be called a visionary, who blends cultures and disciplines. In spite of, his broad educational background includes degrees in mechanical engineering, industrial design and design management, Erdem believes in his self taught design spirit. His unique design approach is both aesthetically sensitive and style conscious. Rather than these, Erdem is driven by ideas and creativity.

Among others, these are the three reasons why Erdem Akan has been described as the “Enfant Terrible of Turkish Design.”

_ Design Philosophy

Like his homecity Istanbul, where throughly modern ideas and traditional practices exist side-by-side with, Erdem’s design philosophy is based on tension between all opposites: fabricated vs. hand-made; natural vs. artificial; new vs old; tradition vs. avant-garde; craftsmanships vs. technology; but especially between eastern culture and western culture. For him design supposed to balance or amplify this tension.

Erdem blends cultures and disciplines; and rather than a style, he is driven by ideas and creativity. He likes playing with cliches and he is inspired by provocation.

_Bio

Erdem Akan was born, and followed his studies, in Istanbul-Turkey, He graduated from Bosphorus University with a BSc. degree in Mechanical Engineering. British Council Chevening scholarship and his desire for creativity brought him to University of Salford in Manchester, where he received his Industrial Design Masters degree. He completed his design studies with Design Culture and Management Programme in Istanbul Bilgi University. From 1996 to 2001 he has undertaken several design and coordination activities for commercial vehicle projects at Ford Motor Company Design Studios in Istanbul (Turkey), Dunton (England) and Dearborn (United States). From 2001 to 2004 Erdem worked as the design manager for Gaia&Gino (Istanbul).

Since 2004, he works within “*maybedesign*” with his partners in Istanbul and Vienna, Boğaç Şimşir, Bora Akçay and Enver Eren, in various fields from art to engineering, from product design to architecture. His most notable designs include objects such as the eastmeetswest tea glass, sitbag series and jewelry such as the Bogaz and Cliché collections, Together with *maybedesign*, they opened their first retail store, which functions as a showcase and platform for emerging designers in Turkey as well as prominent designers. The unique spirit and product selection of *maybeshop* reflects *maybedesign* and Erdem’s “maybe design, maybe art” philosophy and multidisciplinary approach.

To promote Turkish Design he gives lectures, workshops, seminars at various universities, and organizes design exhibitions at various art galleries- ie. *maybeshow*. Erdem’s designs have been featured in Wallpaper, New York Times Style Magazine, Interni, Elle Décor and I.D., among many others.

_Design Exhibitions Curated by Erdem Akan

Nature of Design Design Exhibition, 2010 –Addressistanbul
Morphing Archetypes, Cooperative Project, 2010- Old Galata Bridge IDW
OOPS Design Exhibition, 2009 –Istanbul Culinary Institute, Pera IDW
Prince of Orient Design Exhibition, 2008, Hofmobiliendepot, Vienna
Dream Mug Starbucks 5th year Design Exhibition, 2008 – Kanyon Shopping Mall
XXXDesign Design Exhibition, 2007 – Old Galata Bridge, Istanbul Design Week
Notikea Design Exhibition, 2007 -Piramit Art Gallery
ABC Design Exhibition /AlibabaDesignLab, 2005 -Derin& Çağla Cabaoğlu Gallery
Design&Recycle Design Exhibition, 2005 -İstanbul Modern Arts Gallery
Empati Lighting Exhibition / Proje Tasarlatır, 2002 -Hilton Convention Center
Anahtar AI Hotel Accessories Design Exhibition /Proje Tasarlatır, 2003 -CNR

_Design Exhibitions Participated by Erdem Akan

Spagat Design Exhibition Marta Museum, 2011 Herford Germany
Otherwise Istanbul Design Exhibition 2010 Weimar, Milan Istanbul
Design Spirit Istanbul 2010, Istanbul
Transparency Design Exhibition Kale Tasarım Merkezi, 2010 Canakkale
Barbarlight Design Exhibition 2009, IDW
Sitbag&Relax Design Exhibition 2009, Beymen Blender, Istanbul
Turkish Delight Design Exhibition 2008, Pergamomom Museum, Berlin
Turkish Touch in Design 2007, Milano
Barbar Banquet 2007, Old Galata Bridge,
Wallpaper Global Edit 2006, Milano

_ Design Exhibitions Consulted by Erdem Akan

Manifatura /Bilgi Üniversitesi Sanat&Tasarım Projesi 2007 -IMC
+/- **istanbul** ,2006– Food Culture from Istanbul , IDW
Somatasala ,2005–Food Culture in Sufism , IDW

_Lectures

_FachHochSchule Nordwestschweiz NW Institut Industrial Design-Switzerland
Prominent Member -Guest Lecturer
_PARSONS, The New School For Design, New York
"the Global Issues in Design & Visuality in the 21 st Century" 2008
_Art Center HUARTE- Spain "Turkish Reforms" project presentation 2008
_Bilgi University İstanbul
Design Culture &Management – Design Management Project Lessons since 2006
_Anadolu University, Eskişehir
Industrial Design Dpt, Studio Lectures, Experimental Design Lectures since 2008
_Yeditepe University, Istanbul
Industrial Design Dept., lectured 3 semesters from 2005-2006

References

Among others, the companies given Design&Consultancy services by Erdem Akan:

Absolute (Turkey)	ACC (Vienna)
Aksa Jenarator (İstanbul)	Arçelik (İstanbul)
Armaggan (İstanbul)	Atlas Halı (Gaziantep)
Avea (İstanbul)	Belbim (İstanbul)
Benetton (İstanbul)	Bind (İstanbul)
Biscuit (İstanbul)	Blomberg (İstanbul)
BloombergHT (İstanbul)	Bora Plastik (İstanbul)
Denizlicam (Denizli)	Divan (İstanbul)
Efes Pilsen (İstanbul)	Exotic (İstanbul)
Farplas (İstanbul)	Frigoglass (Greece)
Grundig (İstanbul)	Harvey Nichols (İstanbul)
İlly (Italy)	İstanbul Bilgi Üniversitesi (İstanbul)
İstanbul Construction (Istanbul)	İstanbul Modern Sanatlar Galerisi(İstanbul)
Karsan (Bursa)	Lindt (İstanbul)
Mavi Jeans (İstanbul)	Movenpick (Turkey)
Nike (Turkey)	Norcool (Norway)
Orka (İstanbul)	Paşabahce Store (İstanbul)
Piramit Sanat Galerisi (İstanbul)	Prowide (İstanbul)
Redbull (Austria)	Starbucks (İstanbul)
Sushico (İstanbul)	Taş Bina (İstanbul)
Take Away İstanbul (İstanbul)	Ten (İstanbul)
Turkcell (İstanbul)	Ülker (İstanbul)
Villa Moda (Kuwait)	VitrA (İstanbul)