

MILAN CELEBRATES THE MODERNITY OF COPPER IN KITCHEN AND BATHROOM DESIGNS

From November 11 to 20, the prestigious Triennale of Milan will host seven talented European designers exhibiting their work on the theme "Kitchen and Bathroom designs", in the third exhibition of *Abitare con Il Rame - Living with Copper*. Copper's combined aesthetic and antibacterial properties are creatively exploited in everyday objects with a resolutely contemporary design.

Kitchen Designs Reinterpreting Copper

The Italian designer Riccardo Giovanetti decided to take advantage of copper's heat conducting properties. He came up with a small spoon designed to slightly cool tea or coffee. The Italian designer also presents a modern alternative to the traditional tea ball with a hollow copper tea infuser that is designed to diffuse the herbal tea quickly. He also presents a striking dish warmer with a perforated copper tray to ensure that the heat is distributed evenly and efficiently.

The French designer Didier Leconte looked at recasting traditional cooking utensils in copper and presents a series of accessories with a resolutely modern style. Frying pans, saucepans and kettles all benefit greatly from copper's intrinsic properties: heat conduction and corrosion resistance. Recent studies on copper's antibacterial properties by various microbiological research centres have confirmed the positive role of copper in preventing the proliferation of staphylococcus, Listeria, E. coli 0157 and Legionella (*references available upon request*).

Copper in the Bathroom

These antibacterial properties combined with copper's malleability and extensive corrosion resistance have long made copper a material of choice in the bathroom. For the Danish designer Randy Kristen, copper isn't only for plumbing: for example, it is used to fashion an outside shower with flowing shapes, shimmering colours and water spouts at three different heights. It can also be seen in humidifiers, towel holders and radiators.

Subtle and Varied Tones

The warmth of the palette of copper's subtle tones is visible for all: the pink salmon of the natural metal, the reddish brown resulting from surface oxidation, much sought after for decorative purposes, or the very luminous yellow of brass (zinc and copper alloy). Some designers have even used copper with a grey finish, such as the Austrian designer Nada Nasrallah who presents a combination salt cellar and pepper holder.

Press release "Milan celebrates copper designs for the kitchen and the bathroom" (page 2/2)

Ecological Design: Copper's recycling benefit

Copper's modernity can also be seen in its exceptional recycling properties. Ever more conscious of the environment, designers have the benefit with copper of using a material that is 100% recyclable, without any loss of properties or performance. Copper can thus be used, recycled and reused indefinitely. In Europe, 41% of the annual copper usage, over 2 million tonnes, comes from recycling (Source: International Copper Study Group).

The Exhibition Organiser

This is the third "Abitare con il Rame" exhibition, organised annually by the Istituto Italiano del Rame (Italian Copper Institute), a member of the European Copper Institute. The European Copper Institute is a joint venture between the world's mining companies (represented by the International Copper Association, Ltd.) and the European fabricating industry. Its mission is to promote copper's benefits across Europe through its Brussels office and its eleven Copper Development Centres. More on www.eurocopper.org

Illustrations (cd-rom available upon request)



"Cuocité" – Teaspoon
Design Riccardo Giovanetti
Production Laboratorio Pesaro



Outside shower
Design Randy Kristen
Production Frabo



Salt cellar and pepper holder
Design Nada Nasrallah
Production Fontanaarte

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