

Contemporary Design

DATE 1900–today

AUTHOR Catherine McDermott

**DESIGN
MUSEUM**

Contemporary Design presents a collection of the most important and influential pieces of design produced in the modern age. Featuring the defining work of such pioneers as Frank Lloyd Wright, Rem Koolhaas, Gio Ponti, Eileen Gray, Christian Dior, Vivienne Westwood, Saul Bass, Philippe Starck, Neville Brody and many others, the result is a celebration of the artistic diversity of recent decades.

With nearly 400 examples of the best and most enduring examples of contemporary design, this is an informative and colourful survey of the entire genre, from advertising and architecture, to fashion and furniture, and transport and type, via communications, interiors, lighting, homeware and products. *Contemporary Design* is an essential reference for students, designers in all fields and for anyone interested in innovative and intelligent design work.



Space Toilet

Robin Levien RDI is not a household name but his designs are. Famous for his work for tableware and bathroom companies, his 1999 Space toilet won a prestigious D&AD Silver Award. It was recognition for decades of innovative designs and their enduring success in the market.

The Space range is the result of Levien's longstanding partnership with Ideal Standard, a company with an on-going commitment to modern design within the bathroom industry. It was commissioned to address the problem of increasingly smaller bathroom sizes and it was the first range to seriously address this problem.

Research is a key element of Levien's approach and the Space project brought together a large team including architect Isobel

Coomber. Sources included consumers and builders who were asked to supply the dimensions of real bathrooms; some of the smallest and most awkward ones were recreated with moveable plywood walls in a large room that was christened the "Space Lab". Hand-sculpted blue foam models of all the concepts for the range were evaluated in the Space Lab and ideas which made the maximum use of the limited available space were developed. The most innovative of these is the Space toilet, which is round in plan and has a seat that can be fitted in three positions, straight or angled at 45° to the left or right. This simple idea means the toilet can be installed close to a wall, so freeing up space for a washbasin or even enabling a door to open.

DATE: launched 1998

DESIGNER: Robin Levien
RDI

MANUFACTURER: Ideal
Standard

