

# WATER WAYS

## *Widening the horizon*

Beginning with a synopsis of an art installation that exquisitely addresses water as a scarce resource (providing a practical solution suitable for implementation worldwide), and then moving along to interviews with designers and company leaders, together with earmarking products that tackle the ecological concerns of water supply head-on, this section of DAMN° magazine surveys the the subject via assessing the current state of the industry. Although the task of solving such a global issue is massive and much development has yet to be done, we are cheered by the earnest way that the matter has been initiated by all and sundry.

PATRIZIA COGGIOLA



# GOING COSMO

*Water for all*

In mid-2015, the temporary outdoor architecture installation at MoMA PS1 will be addressing the issue of increasingly scarce water supplies worldwide in an innovative, amazing way. Spanish architect Andrés Jaque has won this year's Young Architects Program (YAP) competition, with his plans to turn the courtyard of the New York gallery into a water filtration plant.

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From 23 June to 7 September, Andrés Jaque will design a temporary urban landscape for the Warm Up summer music series taking place in MoMA PS1's outdoor courtyard. Jaque's New York- and Madrid-based studio, Office for Political Innovation, wishes to draw attention to the global issue of water shortage. Now in its 16th edition, YAP has been committed to offering emerging architectural talent the opportunity to design and present innovative projects, challenging each year's winner to develop a temporary outdoor structure that provides shade, seating, and water. Named Cosmo, the installation by Jaque will comprise of a huge pipe network engineered to filter and purify 3000 gallons of water every four days. The purifying cycle will involve eliminating

suspended particles and nitrates, balancing the pH, and increasing the level of dissolved oxygen. When each cycle is complete, the structure will light up in celebration – offering a colourful accent to this summer music programme, known as the Warm Up sessions. According to Jaque, “The project will highlight a statistic put forward by the United Nations – that by 2025 approximately two thirds of the global population will live in countries that lack sufficient water. This ‘moveable artefact’ has also been designed to be easily reproduced, potentially giving people all around the world access to clean drinking water.” Andrés Jaque founded the Office for Political Innovation to develop architectural projects that bring inclusivity into daily life. In 2014, the studio received the Silver Lion of the 14 Mostra Internazionale di Architettura, Biennale di Venezia and they are the authors of award-winning projects such as Plasencia Clergy House (Dionisio Hernández Gil Prize) and Escaravox (COAM Award 2013).

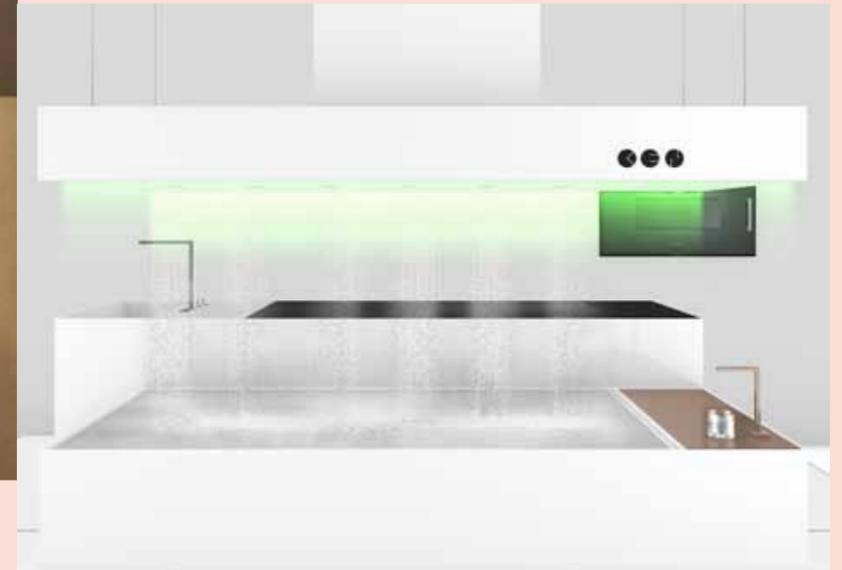
“This year's proposal takes one of YAP's essential requirements – providing a water feature for leisure and fun – and highlights water itself as a scarce resource”, explained MoMA architecture and design curator Pedro Gadanho. “It relies on off-the-shelf components from an agro-industrial origin, and its exuberant mobile architecture celebrates water-purification processes and turns their intricate visualisation into an unusual backdrop for the Warm Up sessions.” <

[momaps1.org](http://momaps1.org)  
[andresjaque.net](http://andresjaque.net)

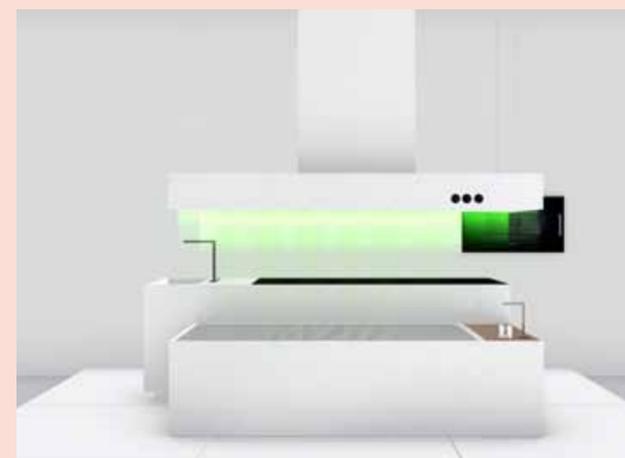
COSMO  
Office for Political Innovation



**MIKE MEIRÉ**  
*Art director and designer for Dornbracht*



The Island (KEN), a project signed by studio DIS co-designed by Mike Meiré, was created in collaboration with Dornbracht and is being exhibited at the New Museum in New York during the 2015 Triennial, on view until 24 May 2015.



On the occasion of Surround Audience, this year's New Museum Triennial, an installation has been developed in collaboration with Dornbracht, co-designed by Mike Meiré, motivating the New York-based artist collective DIS to approach Dornbracht with the idea of a joint project. Meiré, who has accompanied the brand for over 20 years, served as curator and contributor to the Dornbracht Culture Projects, creating The Island (KEN). “This hybrid product unites the (social) kitchen and the (private) bathroom, raising new questions regarding logic and application. The precision and high-end finishing of the work provides the new ‘product’ with a seriousness that inevitably results in a confusion of the observers’ viewing habits.”

As a central piece, The Island (KEN) features Dornbracht's Horizontal Shower with integrated drinking station. Horizontal Shower is an innovative application that for the first time provides a reclining shower experience. It combines six water bars set above a reclining space. A control element allows the user to select one of three water choreographies — balancing, energising, or de-stressing. The complementary part of the installation consists of a kitchen unit that includes a sink, an induction field, and the Dornbracht fitting, Lot, with its digital Smart Water control element and foot sensor. “The Island (KEN) is about fusion and confusion. The idea was to combine two water zones that are usually strictly separated: kitchen and bathroom. It seems surreal, and yet it really exists; you can actually use it. Working together with DIS on this extraordinary project was very inspiring, and it allowed us to experience Dornbracht from a new, unusual perspective. Sculptural in appearance, with an ultra-flat one-piece spout, Lot is a highly architectonic fitting that perfectly complements the installation's minimalistic ambience. In terms of definition, KEN means ‘spiritual horizon’”, explains Meiré. “I just thought it was a perfect fit for this hybrid unit. It pushes our thinking, opens the mind, and questions our expectations of structures and everyday objects — the way they are normally supposed to be.” Horizontal Shower demonstrations will be performed every day during the opening week, and then regularly during weekends.

[dornbracht.com](http://dornbracht.com)  
[newmuseum.org](http://newmuseum.org) / [dismagazine.com](http://dismagazine.com) / [mikemeire.com](http://mikemeire.com)



**STUDIOCHARLIE**  
(Gabriele Rigamonti, Carla Scorda  
and Vittorio Turla)

*Designers for Boffi*

Last year, for Boffi, Italian design studio Studiocharlie created a series of brushed stainless steel bathroom taps with a shiny, upper rotating part in polished steel. A characteristic opening mechanism and water adjustment control swivels out of the vertical axis of the base. The objects designed by Studiocharlie have a strong graphic aspect: they are drawings using matter, lines that define volumes. "Just as drawings on paper use lines and colours, so drawings on a sheet of steel might use laser rays and folds, or drawings on fabric might use threads and woven patterns. The project consists of a balance of round, aligning and overlapping bodies, steel cylinders that rotate with a measured and precise movement. Reflections are mirrored on shiny surfaces to operate unusual mechanisms. Thus, the Eclipse taps are streamlined and sculptural, with monolithic shapes controlled by a new type of motion. The control tap partially rotates, revealing the underlying cylinder that brings to mind the motion of the planets during an eclipse. It is a design that plays with the rotating axis of primary forms, to generate unexpected movements from perfect alignments."

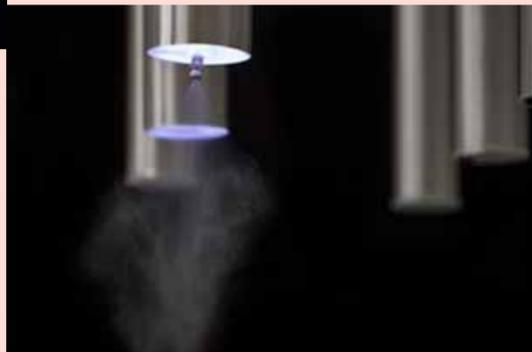
The series includes a full range of tap sets: wall-mounted, built-in, and top-mounted, for bathtubs or showers. Studiocharlie graphics and design studio was founded in 2002 by Gabriele Rigamonti, Carla Scorda, and Vittorio Turla. The team works for a number of companies, such as Atipico, Boffi, Designercarpets, Lanificio Leo, Lema, Bonacina Vittorio, Made a Mano, and Mipa.

*boffi.com*  
*studiocharlie.org*



**CARLO RATTI**

This ceiling-mounted installation by Italian architect Carlo Ratti uses motion tracking to direct personalised 'clouds' of water vapour towards anyone walking below. The project was developed to offer an energy-efficient cooling system in tropical desert climates, such as the United Arab Emirates. When the Cloud Cast detects someone walking beneath it, a series of nozzles emits a cooling mist, backlit by LED lighting. "Evaporative cooling has been used for centuries in the Arabian peninsula and is still more energy efficient than, say, air conditioning", proclaims studio founder Carlo Ratti, who is also the director of MIT's SENSEable City Lab.  
*carloratti.com*



**ARIK LEVY**

*Designer for Inbani*

In 2014, Inbani launched the Bowl collection by Arik Levy. This bathroom set, designed for the Spanish brand, is drawn like a jewel, complete with Arik Levy's trademark lightweight contour lines.

"Conceived as a piece of jewellery, this collection is a landscape of stand-alone items and small combinations. There is preciousness in every little detail, in each object." A contemporary vision that reinterprets every bathroom element, the new collection "is inspired by the harmony and contrast between forms, volumes, spaces and materials. The mixture generates the purity of white in the form of thin metal pieces and marble details, which reinforces the idea of preciousness. The juxtaposition of this contrast in materials draws an elegant line around the objects, forming negative and positive spaces that define the shape, like in typography." The collection transitions from one form to the other, and from one typology to the other, resulting in products that are able to equip a contemporary bathroom.

*inbani.com*  
*ariklevy.fr*



**DIEGO VENCATO & MARCO MERENDI**

*Designers for Agape*

These Italian designers worked with Agape to develop Solid, an innovative mirror. "Working around the idea of a mirror, we were fascinated by the concept of giving volume to an object that is usually flat. We imagined it to be like a drop of liquid metal on the wall, but the idea of a single glass object was both beautiful and difficult to achieve. The three-dimensional volume had to have a function, so it needed an integrated light. Then we concentrated on the finish, one of the key elements of the project. The metal coating process (a technology usually used for industrial components) made it semi-transparent, so as to be permeable to light. The result is an almost neo-primitive object, strong and delicate at the same time." The entire volume is in metallic glass. The front offers a perfect reflection, for practical use, and the thickness of the side, once the mirror is turned on, allows light to pass through, for ambient lighting.

*agapedesign.com*  
*diego-vencato.com*  
*marcomerendi.it*

