

Carlo Bimbi

# LEGACY OF DESIGN

*The septagenarian Italian designer's works form an authoritative figure of reference*

FEATURE **SEEMA SREEDHARAN**



**C**arlo Bimbi began his career in the Italian design world in the '60s, moving masterfully between logic and creativity. His undying passion for design has taken him from collaborating with Nizzoli Associati to the establishment of the Internotredici firm with Gianni Ferrara and Nilo Gioacchini, where he was amongst the protagonists of the exhibition *Italy: The New Domestic Landscape* at the MoMA in New York in 1972.

As a child he dreamt of becoming a volleyball player, but his creative genes got the better of him. He instead went on to specialise in design from the Advanced Institute for Industrial Arts in Florence. In the late '60s, he made his foray into the industry as an

My dream project is to design a fully eco-sustainable range of furniture.

— Carlo Bimbi, Designer

industrial designer, but soon made his presence felt in the furniture and products segment as well. “It has been a great journey — from being an industrial designer and designing automobiles to tools and now furniture,” says Carlo.

“I had been working in Florence since 1970, but my first experiences took place in Milan in 1969–70 at Nizzoli Associati. It was a particularly happy period for people who designed for excellent companies that offered great opportunities. The proposal to participate as an associate at Nizzoli Associati arrived like a true gratification of my contribution to the field of design.”

Carlo’s designs are timeless. They’re as relevant now, as they were four decades ago. “My style is classic, rational and simple.”

“My first design was a lamp radar for Guzzini,” informs the iconic designer. Since then Carlo has collaborated with several iconic Italian brands — Arketipo, Guzzini, Ciatti, B&B Italia and Zucchetti Rubinetterie to name a few. For Segis he designed the Enrico chair, winner of the Roscoe-Awards, and the Blitz chair, which in 1998 won both the Red Dot and iF Award.

With over forty years of experience in the industry, Carlo has certainly witnessed the evolution of design. In his current association with Italian product label Borzalino, he continues to make his presence felt in the design segment. Who does this iconic creative idolise, we wonder. “If I could be someone else for a day, it would have to be Henry Moore. I



*“If I could be someone else for a day, it would have to be sculptor Henry Moore. I love his work... for the materials and free form of his sculptures.”*

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love his work...for the materials and free forms of his sculptures,” he smiles.

Now 73, the designer still maintains an extremely busy schedule — starting his mornings

at the studio, mulling over his projects and then his various engagements. “I used to be like this when I was 20, and I’d like to continue to be this way forever,” he signs off. **CH**

