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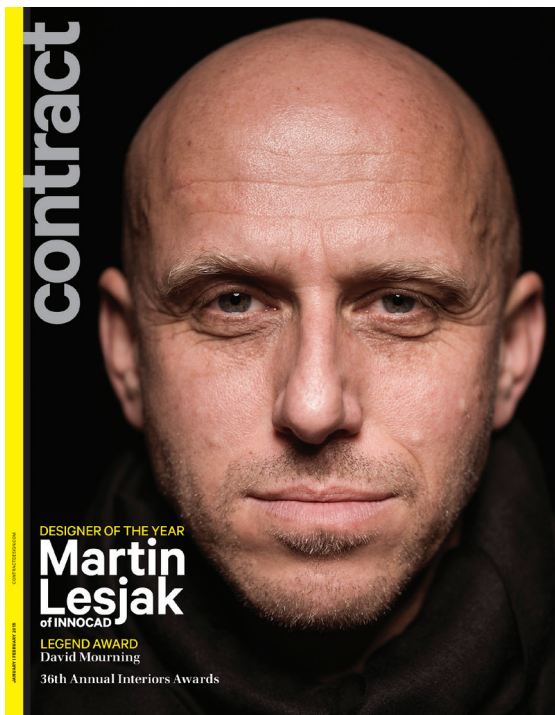
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MARTIN LESJAK NAMED 2015 DESIGNER OF THE YEAR

*Internationally Renowned Architect/Designer
Receives Contract magazine's Top Honor for
INNOCAD Architecture and 13&9 Design*



(NEW YORK – January 30, 2015) – Today, Martin Lesjak, CEO and Creative Director, INNOCAD Architecture and co-founder, 13&9 Design, a product design collective, received one of the international architecture and design community's top honors, Contract Magazine's Designer of the Year. The award was bestowed at the 36th Annual Interiors Awards Breakfast presented by Contract in New York. For the past 36 years, the A&D community has gathered at this annual event to recognize winners of interiors projects across 15 categories, as well as Designer of the Year and Legend Award. Lesjak joins a list renowned past recipients including Michael Graves, Graft, Shigeru Ban, William McDonough and David Rockwell.

“I am grateful to receive this recognition on behalf of my teams at INNOCAD and 13&9.” says Lesjak. “Throughout my career I have sought purpose in my designs by being curious about life’s diversity. I strive to elevate design by encouraging my team to rethink design’s parameters and explore new ways, methods and materials. I feel deeply honored and humbled to receive an award for something that is a personal and life-long passion.”

“Martin Lesjak elicits power, grace, and emotion from his engaging and sensuous interior spaces. Through both his visionary architecture and interior design, as well as beautiful product design, Lesjak is clearly a design star that others in the profession look up to,” says Contract Editor in Chief John Czarnecki, who selected Lesjak as Designer of the Year. “Martin has won a total of three Interiors Awards from Contract in the previous two years, those projects turned heads in the U.S., and his body of work continues to grow and gain international attention.”

The visionary behind INNOCAD, Lesjak’s foresight and expertise in architecture, design, craft and affinity for art has led the award-winning firm in innovative directions globally. Together with INNOCAD’s partners, Lesjak has overseen residential, office, hospitality, healthcare, mixed-use retail, and interiors projects. Recently, INNOCAD received accolades for its design of the Microsoft Headquarters in Vienna. Additional projects include corporate offices in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait; new retail concepts for Erste Bank and Headquarters for Volksbank Südtirol in Italy, OEBB and Samsung in Vienna; and in Graz, XAL Corporate Architecture, including the XAL Competence Center; trade fair booths and industry showrooms globally.

For Lesjak, the creative process does not end with the shaping and designing of an object -- creativity is involved in every facet of the development process and in the evolution of comprehensive design solutions. It is this search for truth in design that prompted Lesjak to co-found, with product and fashion designer Anastasia Su, 13&9 Design, an interdisciplinary product design label. The brand develops products across multiple categories and makes a concerted effort to involve local suppliers, artisans and craftspeople in their production. 13&9 also designs products for major international companies such as Mohawk Group, XAL, VITEO Outdoors, and Artifort / Lande.

Lesjak is also a recognized educator and thought leader. He is a frequent lecturer at the Technical University of Graz and at the Institutes for Urban Development and Residential Building. Prominent speaking engagements have included: the 2013 Turn-On Vienna Festival; Microsoft Vienna “New World of Work”, The Office of the Future, From Idea to Reality, 2012; ÖGFA (Austrian Architectural Association) “Designing Autonomy/Autonomously. How much autonomy does architecture have today?”, Vienna 2009; at sft-Architecture World 2007 in Münster, among others. He represented INNOCAD during Istanbul Design Week 2013 and in 2014, was the official representative of Graz as a UNESCO City of Design at the first “Shenzhen Design Award for Young Talents 2014” in Shenzhen, China. Lesjak also believes strongly in the importance of Graz as a UNESCO City of Design and communicates the creative and economic effects of the interdisciplinary approach at a regional and international level.

About 36th Annual Interiors Awards

A full list of winners of the 2015 Interiors Awards, as well as a profile story and video about Lesjak, can be found on the magazine's website at contractdesign.com/interiorsawards. A 12-page feature on Martin Lesjak is in the January/February issue of Contract magazine, which also includes coverage of all Interiors Awards winners. More than 600 architecture and design leaders attended the Interiors Awards Breakfast at Cipriani on 42nd Street. Winners of Interiors Awards traveled to New York for the event from across the U.S., as well as Singapore, China, and Canada.

About INNOCAD Architecture:

INNOCAD is an Austrian-based design firm, founded by Martin Lesjak and Peter Schwaiger, offering architecture and interiors services for residential, office, hospitality, healthcare, mixed-use, retail and interiors. The team seeks to work out of context and has an analytical and pragmatic approach that results in designs that have meaning and purpose but often goes against the grain of conventionality. Their work is inspired by myriad influences that enable the team to sample, extend and reinterpret concepts into new forms. INNOCAD has been featured in major publications including: A+U (JAP), A10 (NEL), Baumeister (GER), Interior Design and Contract magazines (USA), FROG (France), The Financial Times and On Office (Great Britain), OF ARCH (Italy), and H.O.M.E. Magazine (EU), among others. For more information and a list of other awards, visit: INNOCAD at <http://innocad.at>

About 13&9 Design:

Founded in January 2013, 13&9 is an interdisciplinary design collective from Graz, Austria that celebrates the unique talents and partnership of architect, Martin Lesjak, and product and fashion designer, Anastasia Su. The multidisciplinary team's successful cooperation with specialist partners has led to outstanding achievements in the design of furniture, fashion, accessories, lighting and art objects, as well as industrial design and sound installation projects. The collective has created product for: Mohawk Group, XAL, VITEO Outdoors, Artifort / Lande. Work has appeared in top media outlets, including: ABC News (USA), Azure (CA), Architectural Digest (ITALY), Casa Vogue (BRAZIL), Core 77 (USA), Design Boom (GB), Designmilk (USA), Dwell (USA), Elle Décor (ITALY), 360° Design Magazine (USA), Interior Design (USA), Metropolis (USA), Trendhunter (USA), among others. For more information, visit: 13and9design.com.

About Contract Magazine:

Established in 1960, Contract is celebrating its 55th anniversary as an international design magazine, publishing great contemporary commercial design including workplace, healthcare, hospitality, education, retail, cultural, and government projects. With a readership of interior designers and architects, as well as related design industry professionals, Contract publishes features relevant to its readership and highlights the innovative products that designers specify in their projects. The magazine also produces the Best of NeoCon Awards, Interiors Awards for built work, and annually honors a Designer of the Year. Visit www.contractdesign.com to

learn more, or follow on twitter at twitter.com/contractmag. Visit www.ameda.com/ncon to subscribe.

Video: 2015 Designer of the Year: Martin Lesjak
<http://vimeo.com/117529764>

Article: 2015 Designer of the Year: Martin Lesjak - by Zach Mortice
<http://www.contractdesign.com/contract/design/2015-Designer-of-the-12234.shtml>

New Website:
<http://www.innocad.at>