

Subject

FAQ
Marbledworks

Spring 2024

Marbledworks is a German design studio, founded by Maximilian Huber and Dominic Kim. We redefine stonemasonry, challenging conventional typologies. Our mindset reflects our identity, how we understand and meet the world around us. Our commitment to quality is unwavering. Our holistic philosophy stands apart – one that speaks through the serene language of intellectual sophistication, adopting geometric abstraction, enabled by using artisanal methods, cutting-edge manufacturing, and processing.

Philosophy and Vision

1. Why do you focus on contemporary collectible design? What does it mean for you?

For us, collectible design represents a liberation from the constraints of mass production, both in manufacturing and in aesthetic and conceptual terms. Here, form doesn't just follow function; it's guided by intuition and, more broadly, by artistic expression. Valuing a unique piece over owning multiple items offers an opportunity to pay more attention to one object and explore new directions within this genre. We aim to collaborate with our audience from the start, fostering a meaningful dialogue that leads to purposeful outcomes. This commitment to bespoke creations underpins our focus on collectible design, emphasizing individuality and craftsmanship in every piece we offer.

2. How do Maximilian Huber's economics and Dominic Kim's architecture background influence Marbledworks?

Maximilian's finance and Dominic's architecture expertise shape our approach to conception, pricing, production, and project management. Their professional experiences provide a unique perspective, allowing us to create out-of-context objects with a distinctive approach. Our projects are influenced by a blend of financial acumen and architectural insight, where sometimes the form is indeed led by finance.

3. What has changed the past couple of years in the narrative of collectible design?

The narrative has shifted towards sustainability, technological integration, and a more profound cultural and artistic engagement. There's a growing recognition of design as a form of intellectual and emotional investment, reflecting societal, cultural, and personal narratives more intricately.

4. As collectible design evolves, what role does Marbledworks play?

Marbledworks contributes with highly specific designs, enriched by storytelling and a personal connection to collectors. Our transparent approach to design and production, combined with a desire to establish a distinct design language, positions us uniquely in the evolving landscape of collectible design.

5. What tips would you give to a collector who wishes to start collecting contemporary design?

Trust your instincts and seek pieces that resonate personally. Look for quality, craftsmanship, and designs that challenge conventions. Embrace designs that tell a story or represent a unique artistic vision, ensuring the collection is as distinctive and sophisticated as the collector.

6. What inspired the name Marbledworks?

Marbledworks was chosen for its directness and unexpected visual appeal. The name reflects both the unique qualities of marble and our diverse output, embodying simplicity and intrigue.

7. Could you explain the concept behind your collections?

Our collections explore themes through sculptural works and modular designs, showcasing our dual focus on handcrafted and industrially produced pieces. This approach allows us to explore various aspects of design simultaneously.

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8. What advice do you have for choosing a personal piece?

Select pieces that promise longevity and evoke emotional connections, appreciating their beauty and craftsmanship over time. Awareness of the production process adds to the value of the piece.

9. If inspired by German heritage, what would a Marbledworks design entail?

Inspired by German engineering, we envision creating pieces with dynamic movements or mechanisms, embodying the precision and innovation of German design in a furniture system.

10. What aspect of design does Marbledworks cherish the most?

We find joy in the execution phase, where significant design decisions are made. This stage facilitates collaboration and dialogue, essential for refining our designs.

11. How do initial questions evolve into the final narrative of a piece?

Designing through dialogue, we emphasize the narrative through details and connections, as seen in our JELLY collection. This focus on detail and effort brings the narrative to life, marrying form with conceptual depth.

Sustainability, Technology, and Creative Process

12. How does Marbledworks integrate sustainability and technology into their work?

At Marbledworks, sustainability is paramount, focusing on durability and local sourcing. We strive to create timeless, durable pieces, challenging the notion of disposability. Embracing a circular design philosophy, we aim for our objects to be disassembled based on material needs. Produced locally in Germany, our commitment to quality is intrinsic to our process, making sustainability and technology core to our ethos.

13. How are 3D modeling and AI transforming Marbledworks' creative approach?

The digital sphere, particularly 3D modeling and AI, enhances our creative process by allowing precise experimentation and visualization. It enables us to explore new forms and structures, ensuring our designs remain at the forefront of innovation. While these tools accelerate the evolution toward the perfect design created by machines or software, personal design choices, as well as deliberately planned and orchestrated mistakes, become more valuable. After all, there is more room for the 'imperfect perfect.'

14. How are 3D modeling and AI transforming Marbledworks' creative approach?

Incorporated into our workflow, 3D modeling and AI are pivotal for experimenting, refining ideas, and fostering production dialogue. While not the starting point of our creative process, these technologies enable extensive testing and collaborative exploration, enhancing our design capabilities.

15. How do Marbledworks pieces strike a balance between art and function?

Functionality and beauty coexist in our work, with each piece's utility offering room for interpretation. Our collaboration with craftsmen elevates the artistic value of our objects. We believe in the power of intuitive design to uncover unexpectedly beautiful forms, blending art and function seamlessly.

16. Could you describe your design process?

Our process varies between bespoke and serial productions, characterized by initial sketches, material tests, and 3D visualizations. Optimization and collaboration are key, aiming for a balance between creativity and practicality.

17. Are you more focused on the result or the process?

We believe in the symbiosis of process and result, where a thorough process naturally leads to superior outcomes.

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Marbledworks****Spring 2024****Cultural Influence, Collaboration, and Material Insight****18. How do cultural influences shape Marbledworks' designs?**

Our commitment to the 'Made in Germany' ethos reflects our dedication to quality and craftsmanship. This cultural identity, combined with our diverse backgrounds and international experiences, deeply influences our design philosophy and practices.

19. Where does Marbledworks find design inspiration?

Inspiration for us is boundless, drawing from nature, industrial processes, and the comprehensive execution of business. Our aesthetic appreciation extends to technical equipment, informing our design process in unexpected ways.

20. Can you mention designers or galleries you admire?

We admire Konstantin Grcic for his design ethos and Galerie Kreo for its curatorial excellence, among others in the Italian design tradition.

21. Is there an interior designer you wish to collaborate with?

Collaborating with talents outside the conventional interior design sphere interests us, broadening our creative horizons.

22. Who has been a mentor to Marbledworks, and how have they influenced your practice?

Maximilian's family business, Huber Naturstein, has been a crucial mentor, offering insights into craftsmanship and business acumen. Additionally, Dominic's experience with Caruso St John, especially with Adam Caruso, has profoundly shaped our architectural design approach.

23. What is your favorite material to work with?

We start by challenging the feasibility of ideas, embracing constraints as opportunities for innovation. This challenge-driven approach lays the foundation for our creative process.

24. Have you observed any trends or shifts in material use?

The rise of recycled and upcycled materials is noteworthy, though we advocate for longevity as the cornerstone of sustainability in design.

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