

# PRESS INFORMATION

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## Awards Ceremony for the M TECHNOLOGY AWARD 2009 in Verona:

**A total of 20 supplier products were presented with the M TECHNOLOGY AWARD 2009 today – two of the prizewinners claim a GOLD Award, while four others take home a SILVER Award for outstanding achievement in design and innovation.**

The prizewinners of the M TECHNOLOGY AWARD 2009 were honored at the Awards Ceremony on the first day of the ZOW in Verona, Italy, (October 21 to 24, 2009). Of the 60 entries submitted, 20 outstanding supplier products were chosen by judges Prof. Dipl.-Ing. Ruth Berktold (yes architecture, Munich/D), Paolo Favaretto (Favaretto & Partners, Padua/I) and Jens Kohlhase (Volkswagen AG, Wolfsburg/D) – two of the companies took home a GOLD award and four received SILVER for outstanding achievement in the fields of design and innovation. All prizewinning products are on display in the "a-lounge", the architecture lounge in Hall II.

Partner of the competition, hosted in its third round by Survey Marketing + Consulting, the ZOW organizers, is ADI (Associazione il Disegno), the Italian design association. The M TECHNOLOGY AWARD was designed and organized by if International Forum Design GmbH in Hannover.

Dr. Frank B. Müller at Survey, the ZOW organizers: "Among all the entries submitted, it was the small, 'unassuming' solutions in particular that provided for quite a few surprises. You can actually feel the enthusiasm with which these intelligent technologies were developed."

## Evaluation Criteria – Categories

The highly qualified jury judged the entries submitted strictly on the basis of the competition's **evaluation criteria**: degree of innovation, quality of design, technological aspects, workmanship, choice of materials, environmental impact, functionality, utility, safety, brand value/branding and feasibility for concept entries.

Products and concepts were welcomed in the following **categories**: fittings, chemical products, elements and systems, semi-finished products, interior finishing, surfaces, materials and concepts.

## The Jury

**Prof. Ruth Berktold** (\*1967) opened yes architecture Munich Graz New York together with Marian Wicher in 1994. The work done by yes includes architecture and urban development, furniture, products and web design. In 2006, Prof. Ruth Berktold was selected as one of the "100 great minds of tomorrow" by the Initiative "Germany, Land of Ideas".



■ organized by



**Paolo Favaretto** (\*1950) studied architecture at the University of Venice. In 1973, he opened a design studio, Favaretto & Partners, in Padua. Favaretto is the founder and president of I.I.D.O. – the Italian Institute of Disability Design.

**Jens Kohlhase** (\*1965) studied Industrial Design at the College of Fine Arts in Braunschweig, Germany. He has worked as an industrial designer at Volkswagen, Wolfsburg, in interior design, with a special focus on the design of accessories since 1997.

## The winners of the M TECHNOLOGY AWARD 2009

### **2 x GOLD Award**

06. Surfaces:

#### **“NanoStone” – Stone surface**

**Manufacturer:** Richter Furniertechnik GmbH & Co. KG, Melle/Germany

**Design:** Eberhard Richter, Richter Furniertechnik GmbH & Co. KG, Melle/Germany

NanoStone is a genuine stone surface made of shale with a reinforced backing and a total thickness of only 0.3 mm. Three-dimensional flexibility for thermoforming and folding make NanoStone particularly attractive for furniture surfaces and interior finishing. Thanks to micro-perforation, this stone surface can even be used for soundproofing walls. Covered on the back with recycled leather fibers and with a total thickness of 0.9 mm, NanoStone takes on the positive workmanship qualities of natural leather.

#### **Jury’s assessment:**

“Fascinatingly thinly cut stone can be used for countless applications. NanoStone is not only very light, it also exhibits an amazing ability to absorb sound.”

01. Fittings:

#### **“conex” – Fittings system**

**Manufacturer:** Stork Beschlagtechnik GmbH & Co. KG, Marienfeld/Germany

**Design:** Matthias Brennfleck, Brennfleck GbR, Karlsruhe/Germany

The conex fittings system combines traditional looks with amazing freedom in design. The innovation: both the horizontal and the vertical plate elements are joined or released with one simple turn. The clean lines of the joining element reflect the form of the furniture panels and makes it possible to combine them in any order in angles, curves, diagonals or completely freely. The universal functionality of the fitting increases the number of ways in which the panels can be used.

#### **Jury’s assessment:**

“The qualities of a shelf are expressed in the concept of support and joining in its design. The reduced, almost simple form joins vertical and horizontal shelves without appearing dominant. The connector allows a wide variety of different shelf designs and, as a bonus, is also very easy to use.”

## 4 x SILVER Award

01. Fittings:

### **"Flat clamp" – Clamp for table tops**

**Manufacturer:** Meyer AG, Ennetbürgen/Switzerland

**Design:** Ruedi Meyer, Meyer AG, Ennetbürgen/Switzerland

The flat clamp prevents long tabletops from sagging in the middle. The fitting is easy to crop to the proper length and set into the tabletop. It is a very inconspicuous and inexpensive solution.

#### **Jury's assessment:**

"The flat clamp remains out of sight and is integrated flush into the underside of the tabletop to make long tabletops stable and keep them level – invisible from the outside. It prevents heavy tabletops from sagging or warping. A simple, perfect, technical solution."

04. Semi-finished products:

### **"Folding Technology" – Edge treatment**

**Manufacturer/Design:** Georg Ackermann GmbH, Wiesenbronn/Germany

This folding technology is ideal for neatly folding anything from leather to aluminum around the edges of the supporting board, opening up a wealth of new opportunities for design and application in the field of decoration. The milling parameters for the contours are freely selectable.

#### **Jury's assessment:**

"This technology is a new type of milling treatment for MDF boards that allows them to be covered with leather, aluminum etc., without having to use screws or nails. It produces countertops and kitchen cupboard doors with very cleanly covered edges and corners."

04. Semi-finished products:

### **"Acrysign" – Zenshine Light-Emitting Foil**

**Manufacturer:** ACRYSIGN, Tirschenreuth/Germany

**Design:** Thomas Sentner, Zensys Consulting, Hirschaid/Germany

The LEM stool and the Ava table are the first products worldwide to be modified with Zenshine. The Zenshine light-emitting foil is integrated into the tabletop, which is only eight millimeters thick, and the seat surface. After that, the PETG boards are heat-treated to shape them as desired.

#### **Jury's assessment:**

"This product provides visions of freely formable, luminescent surfaces that can be used for furniture as well as for wall and ceiling design."

03. Elements and systems

### **"flow Star MK 150" – Wall conduct**

**Manufacturer:** Naber GmbH, Nordhorn/Germany

**Design:** Hans-Joachim Naber, Prof. Dr. Wolf-Christoph Friebe, Naber GmbH, Nordhorn/Germany

The COMPAIR® flow Star wall conduct uses the pressure of the airflow created by the exhaust hood to open and to close. The movement of the maintenance-free, ball-bearing carriage installed in the plastic enclosure with its flush-closing stainless-steel front panel is controlled by a spring/magnet mechanical system. High functionality in daily use and elegant design are as convincing as the blower door test values.

**Jury's assessment:**

"The Naber wall conduct stands out not only by its high functionality as far as the aerodynamic guidance of the air flow is concerned, it is also convincing in its design and the options it offers for integration into the façade design. The rounded stainless-steel plates give a new look to vents on the outside."

**14 x Awards**

03. Elements and systems

**"Apollo BR30" – Illuminant**

**Manufacturer/Design:** Aeon Lighting Technology Inc., Chung-Ho City/ Taiwan

The Apollo BR30 is an LED solution that can be used in general for all kinds of illumination, i.e. replacing traditional interior illuminants. Thanks to state-of-the-art heat and transmission technology, the BR30 has a very long service life. Its heat sink provides a maximum surface for maximum heat dissipation. It is extremely efficient and provides very high light intensity.

03. Elements and systems

**"Aurora MR16" – Illuminant**

**Manufacturer/Design:** Aeon Lighting Technology Inc., Chung-Ho City/ Taiwan

The Aurora MR16 is a high-quality LED lamp that combines high stability and long service life with high brilliancy at a low temperature. The cooling interior provides for maximum heat dissipation. Its energy supply electronics are highly efficient. It can be used for all kinds of interior lighting.

03. Elements and systems

**"Linea Power UT" – Light with LED and touch dimmer**

**Manufacturer:** CHF Lichttechnik GmbH, Hilpoltstein/Germany

**Design:** Hans-Jürgen FürnkäB, CHF Lichttechnik GmbH, Hilpoltstein/Germany

This light sports clean lines in its design, minimum dimensions and convenient switching technology. Designed specifically for installation under cupboards, the "Linea Power UT" is equipped with energy-saving power LEDs using state-of-the-art technology. The touch dimmer has an integrated blue LED, so that the lamp can also be switched on in the dark and dimmed at infinitely variable levels. Mounted on the back panel of a cupboard with a special mounting bracket, it provides excellent lighting for the kitchen countertop. The power is supplied via an LED controller with a flat two-pinned plug into which the lamp is plugged.

#### 04. Semi-finished products

##### **“ACRIWOOD” – Curved wooden elements**

**Manufacturer:** COSTA + SINTETICA, Carimate/Italy

**Design:** Mimma Formenti, Lisa Tavazzani, COSTA + SINTETICA, Carimate/Italy

Acriwood is a new kind of material solution for the production of curved wooden elements, covered with a layer of acrylic material. Compared with the much more expensive varnishing, this is an optimum solution. ACRWOOD can be used to manufacture a variety of different pieces of furniture – including chairs and kitchen furniture. Alicrite is resistant to heat and cold as well as to sunlight and cleaning materials.

#### 03. Elements and systems

##### **“Octaspring” – Mattresses and upholstery springs**

**Manufacturer:** Diamond Spring Company, Zele/Belgium

**Design:** Willy Poppe, Diamond Spring Company, Zele/Belgium

Octaspring is the first cylindrical spring that is completely made of high-quality polyurethane foam. A very environmentally friendly alternative to metal springs and other materials generally used for springs. Octaspring can replace all types of steel springs in mattresses and upholstery and provides much better support for the body. Thousands of air channels ensure an ideal exchange of air and moisture. Other advantages: low production costs, unlimited firmness and dimensions, the possibility of stacking several layers of springs with different degrees of firmness for optimum comfort. In addition, Octaspring is a real lightweight.

#### 05. Interior finishing

##### **“Light per meter” – Light rail**

**Manufacturer:** Technilight b.v.b.a, Waregem/Belgium

**Design:** Light by the meter: Jan Mahieu, Technilight b.v.b.a Waregem/Belgium

**Seamless:** Jan Mahieu, Ingo Riebow, EMS GmbH, Bornheim/Germany

“Light per meter” is a seamless light rail for consistent lighting without shadows thanks to the new Osram seamless T5 technology. Due to its asymmetrical reflector characteristics, it is ideal for indirect room lighting, regardless of whether as a wall rail or as a perimeter lighting solution. The rail can be used for virtually any application indoors and in some outdoor solutions as well. Seamless ceiling installation, hanging solutions or mounting onto any material, with the beam pointed in any direction and in any position, are all possible.

#### 01. Fittings

##### **“Change to inside” – Drawer insert**

**Manufacturer:** EURO DRVEL S.R.L., Camerano/Italy

**Design:** Fabio Orlandoni, EURO DRVEL S.R.L., Camerano/Italy

“Change to inside” is a specially developed insert for drawers. It is made of thermoplastic material and compared with familiar products made of thin aluminum, it is more practical, easier to clean and impact resistant. “Change to inside” can be further customized by adding practical containers made of the same material and upgraded with accessories made of chromed metal wire, if desired.

#### 04. Semi-finished products

##### **“Fire protection corrugated sheets” – Fire protection corrugated sheets** **Manufacturer/Design: Georg Ackermann GmbH, Wiesenbronn/Germany**

Georg Ackermann GmbH can cut structures into any materials, into dry walling, for example. 15 different standard structures have been defined to start off with, but it is also possible to program customized, individual corrugated sheets. Thanks to state-of-the-art 5-axis technology, it is possible to work in the third dimension, which means that individual brands can also be used in the object.

#### 01. Elements and systems

##### **“habö ISS” – Interior clamping screw** **Manufacturer: habö CNC Dreh- und Frästechnik / Harald Böhl GmbH, Rosenthal/Germany** **Design: Harald Böhl, habö CNC Dreh- und Frästechnik / Harald Böhl GmbH, Rosenthal/Germany**

The habö ISS can be used to attach cylindrical elements (e.g. rods) in a simple metric thread. The rod is fed through the ISS, which is screwed into the thread. As soon as it is screwed tight, the rod sits tight as well. As the ISS is tightened or loosened, it is infinitely adjustable. Size, supporting power and head shape can be influenced in the design. Interior diameter: 5-60 mm. Supporting power: a single ISS (stainless steel; M16x1.5; ID:12mm) is able to support up to 100kg, when coated up to 350kg. Applications include furniture design (wall units), store construction (for adjustable shelving) and exhibition booth construction (e.g. for quick booth construction).

#### 01. Fittings

##### **“Fixissimo” – Connectors** **Manufacturer: Meyer AG, Ennetbürgen/Switzerland** **Design: Ruedi Meyer, Meyer AG, Ennetbürgen/Switzerland**

The clever connector for corner feet. Unobtrusive, detachable and quickly mounted. The design is able to bear a lot of weight and is virtually invisible. An adjustment feature makes it possible to position the foot flush.

#### 07. Materials

##### **“AirMaxx” – Lightweight wooden material** **Manufacturer/Design: Nolte Holzwerkstoff GmbH & Co. KG, Germersheim/Germany**

AirMaxx®, a lightweight wooden material, consists of wood shavings and foamed polymer and weighs 30 percent less than regular particle board. The main advantage is that the production and the processing of the new material are done on existing systems. Many of the steps from the raw material to the finished piece of furniture that the consumer buys are made easier. This new material also reduces the costs for logistics, packing materials and energy for its transport. There are no problems concerning recycling and waste incineration.

## 01. Elements and systems

### **“ROTOLA FLAT” – Furniture wheel**

**Manufacturer:** O.G.T.M. OFFICINE MECCANICHE S.R.L.,  
S. Angelo Lodigiano/Italy

**Design:** Davide u. Gabriele Adriano, ADRIANO DESIGN, Turin/Italy

A hole in a panel that almost magically allows an unseen wheel to function smoothly. This is the new Flat wheel from the Rotola collection by Dgtm. Rotola Flat is precisely engineered so that the wheel can be secured to a panel with screws that remain hidden from view. The result is surprising: a hole framed by an elegant plate that rolls...just like magic! Rotola Flat is made of two “weight-bearing shells” molded in die cast zamak that house the rotating device. The wheel is assembled with two screws that secure it to the panel but are not visible on the exterior. The simple assembly procedure makes this product very innovative.

## 07. Materials

### **“flameprotect compact” – Nonflammable decorative panel**

**Manufacturer/Design:** Thermopal GmbH, Leutkirch im Allgäu/Germany

The decorative panel can be used anywhere for fire prevention to reduce the thermal load. Particularly in places where nonflammable materials are required and special demands are made on design and easy care. The areas of application in decorative interior finishing include furniture, built-in components and wall paneling, in required hallways and stairwells in standard buildings, but also meet the more stringent requirements in special-purpose buildings, such as multi-story buildings, hospitals and schools. The material is not suitable for use in damp areas or outside.

## 03. Elements and systems

### **“primemix” – Tap**

**Manufacturer:** Valfsel Armatur Sanayi A.S., Manisa/Turkey

**Design:** Müge Göken, Hakan Cevat Tuncay

**Valf sel Armatur Sanayi A.S., Manisa/Turkey**

Primemix is a water and energy-saving tap. Thanks to a new kind of mechanics, the temperature and the water flow can be adjusted separately. It is also possible to adjust the water flow alone – whereby the temperature remains the same. Thanks to Primemix, it is not necessary to readjust the temperature, which results in savings in terms of water and energy. If only cold water is required, Primemix ensures that the hot-water boiler does not switch on – as it usually would. This also saves energy.

All the prizewinning entries will also be on display at the following international ZOW Business Events. In addition, the winners will be showcased on the ZOW website at [www.zow.info](http://www.zow.info) and in the iF online exhibition at [www.ifdesign.de](http://www.ifdesign.de).

**For more information and image material:**

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