

Interview with Christian Speck from Formzone

Basel, June 2010

What did you bring along today?

A breadboard named “Duan”. The soft wooden board is decorated with CNC-milled grooving and through the use irregular cuts occur which turn the surface of the breadboard as edged as the Piz Duan, a mountaintop in the Bergell. The project is about making a lot from little but also about using local resources.

Define your work in three words...

Varied, innovative, detail-obsessed.

What is design to you?

It is a huge term and has many meanings. To me, design has got a lot to do with life, telling stories and the aging process of a product to receive its optimal look.

Design should first of all be fun und tell stories.

What does a normal day in your life look like?

I have my own office where I work from 8.30 am until 7pm. My office is sort of my second home, I like it there – it is a nice space.

I often work on projects in interior design, mainly private orders but also for public spaces. My main focus lies on the reconstruction of special houses where I try to transfer the old structures into a contemporary solution. I am fascinated by the contradiction between the charm of old objects and a new world – so in the end, may aim is to let the old story go on in the new area.

Who are your heroes?

What inspires you?

I find a lot of inspiration in nature, in landscapes, plants, stones, natural forms and the ambience of the different weather conditions when hiking in the mountains. I don't have any heroes – I am inspired by a marvellous piece of wood rather than a personality.

What would you do if you weren't a designer?

I have asked that myself as well – what would I



do if I had no more orders? It is hard to say. What I really like about design is that it's multi-faceted but also routine. It is challenging. So I might be a chef then, that could be a similar challenge.

Do you think Basel is a good place to be as a designer?

Basel is not a good place to be as a designer – it is great that it is trinational but there is no real market for design. There is not much happening concerning design, despite the fact that there is the design school FHNW. It is a bit sleepy here. But I think Switzerland in general is a good place to be as a designer. There is a certain understanding of design and high-quality handcraft is much appreciated.

Where do you see yourself in five years?

I will still be a designer – but if I am still in Switzerland, I can't tell. Where else? Maybe in Argentina – it has a unique landscape. And I might develop my photographic work a bit further, but I will still work in interior and product design.

— interview & text: Luzia Kälin _ sachenmachen.ch
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