

STUDIOPEPE

Since setting up as Studiopepe in Milan in 2006, Arianna Lelli Mami and Chiara Di Pinto have established themselves as innovators in both interior and product design, collaborating with well known brands as well as envisaging more artistic limited editions and conceptual spaces. In June, they will launch a new collection for Italian furniture brand Baxter, including a series of chunky sculptural outdoor pieces in concrete, and a Studiopepe-designed Hermès pop-up store is set to open in Rome this month.

Also in June, their first range of collectable design pieces will be unveiled by Galerie Philia at a renovated factory building in Milan's Baranzate district during Design Week. Inspired by anthropological research, the sculptural chairs, tables and lamps are a mix of burnt wood, concrete and marble.

They have one bugbear about being known as a female duo: "I really don't like it when people suggest that because we are two women our work is more decorative," says Di Pinto. On the whole, however, they see being women in a male-dominated industry as an advantage. As Lelli Mami says: "Heritage brands want to work with us because they recognise we can bring fresh air to a project."



Arianna Lelli Mami (left) and Chiara Di Pinto of Studiopepe

ROOMS STUDIO

Tbilisi-based design duo Nata Janberidze and Ketik Toloraia refer to their joint practice as a "confluence of energies". They launched Rooms in 2007, creating furniture as a "narrative of personal experiences of womanhood", which has been enriched by both becoming mothers. "I have three daughters and Ketik has two sons," says 40-year-old Nata. "I don't think our work is gender-specific, though – it's more about using feminine intuition." Consequently, their ongoing Wild Minimalism collection is a modern take on archaic forms in roughly hewn, almost black reclaimed oak. Their brass-topped, scooped-base Triple Coffee Table (POA), meanwhile, is a favourite of interior designer Kelly Wearstler, and the range is evocatively showcased at the Rooms Hotel Kokhta – their third hotel project in Georgia, in the ski resort of Bakuriani – alongside their illustrated CC-Tapis rugs (their Night Of A Hunter Deer At Night rug is \$8,600 at 1stdibs.com) and a huge metal fireplace covered in hieroglyph-like symbols.

Below: Rooms Studio designers Ketik Toloraia (left) and Nata Janberidze with (from left) their Sculptural Chair I, Half Moon Coffee Table II and Sculptural Chair II



PHOTOGRAPH: ARIANNA LELLI MAMI

"OUR WORK ISN'T GENDER-SPECIFIC – IT'S MORE ABOUT FEMININE INTUITION"