

INDIA DESIGN FORUM ANNOUNCES ITS FIRST EVENT IN SRI LANKA WITH GUEST OF HONOUR PHILIPPE STARCK



Monday 24th September 2018, New Delhi: India Design Forum (IDF) and IDF Singapore announce their first design event in Colombo, Sri Lanka, which will take place on Thursday 18th October 2018.

IDF Colombo will be held at the former offices of the world-renowned Sri Lankan architect, the late Geoffrey Bawa, and will include a series of panel discussions with a select group of eminent regional and international design industry figures, including the inimitable inventor, creator, architect, designer, and artistic director, M. Philippe Starck. In honour of his contribution to the design industry, specifically within the South Asia region, IDF will present Starck with a Lifetime Achievement Award at the event.

Starck considers it his duty to share his ethical and subversive vision of a fairer planet, and creates unconventional places and objects whose purpose is to be *good* before being beautiful. His mission and vision is for creation - whatever shape it takes - to "make life better for the largest number of people possible".

In keeping with this design ethos, the panel discussions at IDF Colombo will explore topics such as responsible luxury and the relevance of architecture in an era of sustainability; the significance of design in rapidly urbanising South Asia; design as a medium to define our times; and subaltern perspectives in architecture and design.

Panellists include: Christopher Turner (V&A and London Design Biennale); Vicky Richardson (Writer, curator, and Honorary RIBA Fellow); Vic Frogliia (Gensler Architecture); Channa Daswatte (Architect and Trustee of the Geoffrey Bawa Trust); Shanth Fernando (Paradise Road); and Manish Arora (Fashion Designer).

About India Design Forum

India Design Forum was started as an inclusive design conference in 2012 spanning all disciplines under the purview of design. It was the first organisation in South Asia to offer a global discourse on design and it has an international reputation as India's most prestigious and pioneering design platform. It provides an invaluable platform to leading industry figures, professionals, and emerging talent to interact with their counterparts from across the world.

IDF has been held in New Delhi and Mumbai where it has welcomed some of the most globally respected figures of the international design community. IDF has been recognised as a thought leader on design by the Government of India and invited to anchor the Make in India Week in 2016 in Mumbai. IDF was invited to represent India at the inaugural London Design Biennale in 2016, and has recently been selected, with the State Government of Telangana (India), to host the 2019 World Design Assembly (WDO).

Website www.indiadesignforum.com | **Facebook** @IndiaDesignForum | **Instagram** @IndiaDesignForum

About IDF Singapore

IDF Singapore seeks to promote Singaporean artists and designers by connecting them to international markets and producers, and its core strength lies in building networks and organising world class exhibitions, conferences, and events. IDF Singapore exhibited at SingaPlural in March 2018, as part of the Singapore Design Week, and at Designjunction in London, as part of London Design Festival in September 2018. The organisation plans to initiate a global design forum alongside several other cultural initiatives in the region, as part of an ongoing effort to play a significant supporting role in making Singapore an important hub for design.

Website www.idfsingapore.com | **Facebook** @idfsingapore | **Instagram** @idfsingapore

About Philippe Starck

Philippe Starck is an internationally acclaimed French creator, designer and architect. His profound comprehension of contemporary mutations, his determination to change the world, his anticipatory concern for environmental implications, his love of ideas, his desire to defend the intelligence of usefulness - and the usefulness of intelligence - have accompanied one iconic creation after the other. From everyday products such as furniture and lemon squeezers, to revolutionary mega-yachts, individual windmills, electric bikes or hotels and restaurants that aspire to be wondrous, stimulating and intensely vibrant places. This untiring and rebellious citizen of the world, who considers it his duty to share his ethical and subversive vision of a fairer planet, creates unconventional places and objects whose purpose is to be "good" before being beautiful. Philippe Starck and his wife, Jasmine, mostly live on an airplane or in "middles of nowhere".

Website www.starck.com | **Facebook** @StarckOfficial | **Instagram** @Starck

About the Speakers

Christopher Turner is Director of the London Design Biennale, Deputy Director of the London Design Festival, and Director of the Architecture & Design Department at the V&A Museum, London. Chris also lead the Museum's contribution to the Venice Architecture Biennale earlier in 2018.

Vicky Richardson MA FRIBA is an architecture and design writer and curator based in London. She was formerly Director of Architecture, Design and Fashion at the British Council, where she organised exhibitions and events all over the world, and commissioned the British Pavilion at Venice Architecture Biennale. Vicky is a member of the Advisory Panel of the newly opened V&A Dundee in Scotland and in 2015 was awarded an Honorary Fellowship of the RIBA for her contribution to British Architecture.

Vic Froggia is a Senior Associate Architect at Gensler Architecture, the American design and architecture firm headquartered in San Francisco, which is widely considered to be the world's leading collaborative design firm, as well as the largest. The firm currently operates offices in 46 cities in 16 countries worldwide.

Channa Daswatte is one of Sri Lanka's leading architects who was a personal assistant to Geoffrey Bawa. Today he is a Trustee of both the Geoffrey Bawa Trust and the Lunuganga Trust. Channa is an accomplished writer on design and the co-author of Sri Lanka Style -Tropical Design and Architecture (2006) with Dominic Sansoni.

Manish Arora is an Indian fashion designer based in New Delhi. From 2011-12 Manish was Creative Director of the womenswear collection of the French fashion house Paco Rabanne, although he left the company in May 2012 to work on his eponymous brand.

Udayshanth Fernando is a design entrepreneur who established Paradise Road in 1987. The company originally began as a retail venture selling locally manufactured contemporary merchandise and later expanded to several stores across Sri Lanka, selling a range of local and imported homeware. In 1998 Fernando and his wife Angelika, ventured into the hospitality industry with Paradise Road The Gallery Café followed by the launch of two boutique hotels in Colombo and Bentota.