



Dirk Wynants Designer

Founder, owner, art director and big boss at Extremis. Contemporary and innovative furniture design | www.extremis.com

Head designer at Dirk Wynants Design Works. Headquarters in Belgium | Division in Shanghai | www.dwdw.be

Professor at the DeTao Masters Academy at SIVA Shanghai | www.detaoma.com

extremis®

dirk wynants design works



BORN

Belgium, May 9th 1964, son of a cabinet maker

EDUCATION

Interior architecture and furniture design at the Architecture Institute Sint-Lucas in Gent, Belgium

CAREER

Dirk Wynants Design Works (DWDW) materialized through a unique design methodology. A human centered, ecologically minded approach that is the manifestation of Dirk's own personal pursuit to better things.

There's no greater satisfaction than designing something beautiful and obvious, of which nobody has thought of before. It's hard to imagine now, but designer outdoor furniture hardly existed before Dirk designed his first table: Gargantua. Such an innovation, that it made him start his own brand in 1994: Extremis, Latin for 'out-of-the-ordinary'.

Gargantua, a round table with floating adjustable benches that is fit for all sizes and ages, is still a best-seller to this day. Because he believes that everything can be improved upon, Extremis evolved into a diverse collection that stands out in an over saturated market. It answers fundamental questions of how to best spend quality time together, in a society that is ever evolving.

Extremis is now world renowned, while DWDW has gathered numerous design awards, and Dirk has been awarded for his design management and sustainability. A good design is only the start of success. He believes designers should have an interest in everything from the inception, to the realization, selling to consumers and the end of life, of their product.

His years of experience, beliefs and knowledge are shared by being the head of an industrial design department at the DeTao Masters Academy at the Shanghai Institute of Visual Arts (CN) in collaboration with HOWEST Kortrijk (BE). He is also frequently invited to give guest lectures in schools and at design events worldwide.

PUBLICATION

"I've always been attached to the globe" is the title of the book dedicated to the work of Dirk Wynants. Author is the renowned Belgian design critic and journalist Chris Meplon, who has been keeping a close eye on the international design scene since 1998.

EXHIBITIONS

- "Dirk Wynants. Design Works."
Exhibition on the work of Dirk Wynants, Design Museum Ghent (BE), 2012
- "The Dreams of Glory"
Art exhibition - Shanghai Sanlin Folk Culture Festival (CN), 2014
- "Design on Air", Le Grand-Hornu (BE), 2019

AWARDS

Henry van de Velde Award	Brussels (BE)	2001
Independent entrepreneur of the year	Brussels (BE)	2001
Hermes Award	Brussels (BE)	2002
Leeuw van de Export, young exporter	Brussels (BE)	2002
Interior Innovation Award for Picnik	IMM Cologne (GE)	2003
les Best of NOW! design à vivre for Picnik	Paris (FR)	2003
Henry van de Velde Award for Picnik	Brussels (BE)	2003
FX international design award for Picnik	London (GB)	2003
IF design award for Picnik, silver	Hannover (GE)	2004
Good Design award for Picnik	Chicago (USA)	2004
ID award (honourable mention) for Picnik, Annual Design Review	New York (USA)	2004
FX international design award for Arthur (best residential furniture)	London (GB)	2004
Design Award of the Province of West Flanders	Kortrijk (BE)	2004
Interior Innovation Award for Donuts	IMM Cologne (GE)	2005
FX international design award for Donuts	London (GB)	2005
Red Dot Award for Donuts	Essen (GE)	2005
Henry Van De Velde Label for Inumbra	Brussels (BE)	2006
Henry Van De Velde Label for Woodstock	Brussels (BE)	2006
IF Award 2007 for Inumbra	Hannover (GE)	2006
IDEA Silver for Inumbra	Herndon (USA)	2007

Nomination for the Design Award of the Fed. Republic of Germany for Inumbra	Frankfurt am Main (GE)	2007
DME award (category small companies)	Essen (GE)	2007
Nomination for the Design Award of the Fed. Republic of Germany	Frankfurt am Main (GE)	2008
Design Award of the Province of West Flanders for Woodstock	Kortrijk (BE)	2008
DME award (category sustainability)	Cardiff (GB)	2008
KMO-nominee	Brussels (BE)	2008
iF design award for Kosmos	Hannover (GE)	2009
FX international design award for Kosmos	London (GB)	2009
Interior Innovation Award for Hopper	IMM Cologne (GE)	2011
Good Design Award for Alea	Chicago (USA)	2011
Red Dot Award for Abachus	Essen (GE)	2011
Red Dot 'Best of the Best' for Hopper	Essen (GE)	2011
IDEA Silver for Hopper	Herndon (USA)	2011
Henry van de Velde Label for Hopper	Brussels (BE)	2011
iF design award for Hopper	Hannover (GE)	2011
md award for Hopper	Berlin (GE)	2011
Design Award of the Province of West Flanders for Abachus, Kosmos, Kosmos parasol'Oris and Hopper	Kortrijk (BE)	2012
Henry van de Velde label for Marina	Brussels (BE)	2012
Interior Innovation Award IMM for Marina	Cologne (GE)	2012
German Design Award for Hopper	Frankfurt am Main (GE)	2013
Good Design Award for Hopper	Chicago (USA)	2013
Good Design Award for Hopper shade	Chicago (USA)	2013
Good Design Award for Hopper bench	Chicago (USA)	2013
AZ Award for Marina	Toronto (USA)	2013
Green Good Design Award	Chicago (USA)	2013
German Design Award for Marina	Frankfurt am Main (DE)	2013
IDEA finalist for Marina	Herndon (USA)	2013
Nominee for Creative Entrepreneur	Brussels (BE)	2014
Nomination for the German Design Award for SAM	Frankfurt am Main (DE)	2015
Interior Innovation Award for Walrus	Cologne (DE)	2015
Red Dot Award for Pantagruel	Essen (DE)	2015
German Design Award (special mention) for Walrus	Frankfurt am Main (DE)	2015
iF design Award for Walrus	Hannover (DE)	2016
German Design Award GOLD for Sol+Luna	Frankfurt am Main (DE)	2017
German Design Award for Anker	Frankfurt am Main (DE)	2017
Architonic products award for Sol+Luna	(CH)	2017

European Product Design Award GOLD for Sol+Luna	(USA)	2017
iF design Award for Virus GOLD for Virus	Hannover (DE)	2018
European Product Design Award, BRONZE for Virus	(USA)	2018
Architonic Products Award for Bistroot	(CH)	2018
Good Design Award for Virus	Chicago (USA)	2018
Good Design Award for Sol+Luna	Chicago (USA)	2018
German Design Award GOLD for Virus	Frankfurt am Main (DE)	2019
Henry van de Velde Award for Acacia	Brussels (BE)	2019
German Design Award Winner for Bistroot	Frankfurt am Main (DE)	2020
German Design Award Winner for Acacia	Frankfurt am Main (DE)	2020

LECTURES - not all shown

2004

- Imperfect by Design, Brussels (BE)
- Future Design Days, Stockholm (SE)

2005

- Professionals' Day Expert Conference, Prague (CZ)
- State of Design Festival, Melbourne (AU)

2006

- Designer's Lounge, Kortrijk (BE)

2007

- Innovatienetwerk Voka, Kortrijk (BE)

2008

- DME Congress, Barcelona (ES)
- Annual Modern Atlanta (MA) Design Festival, Atlanta (US)
- Admir(able) Saint-Etienne DME Conference, Saint-Etienne (FR)

2009

- "Meet the Designers" Voka, Kortrijk (BE)

- Design Fusion, Kortrijk (BE)
- Hantal school, Kortrijk (BE)
- Futurotextiel, Kortrijk (BE)
- Grand Opening HN Lin, Shanghai (CH)

2010

- Designlab, Hellinicon (GR)
- IFEST Seminar: durable product development and material innovations, Gent (BE)
- TisTou, Tokyo (JP)
- Westanglia, Diksmuide (BE)
- Altagamma, Moscow (RU)

2011

- 11th European Conference on Creativity and Innovation, Brussels (BE)
- Pecha Kucha Night, Melbourne (AU)
- Flanders InShape, Kortrijk (BE)
- The Future Update, Kortrijk Xpo, Kortrijk (BE)
- Symposium: "The next big thing is a lot of small things", Kortrijk (BE)
- I-Fest Seminar, Gent (BE)
- Front End Conference Europe, Berlin (DE)

2012

- "Design & Fire" Tastenhoye, Brussels (BE)
- Perlov Design Center, Saint-Petersburg (RU)
- "(W)interieuravonden" Lessius Hogeschool, Mechelen (BE)
- Beijing Design Week, Beijing (CN)
- "Bryo" Voka, Kortrijk (BE)
- Shanghai Institute of Visual Arts, Shanghai (CN)
- Batiplus, Zürich (CH)
- Designnovation, 8th European conference on the challenges of design in Europe, Paris (FR)

2013

- Design Fusion, Kortrijk (BE)
- Jiangnan University, Wuxi (CN)
- "Dag van het Thermisch Verzinken" Zinkinfo, Mechelen (BE)
- "Creative Ville" Flanders District of Creativity, Leuven (BE)
- CBi Shanghai Bridge, Shanghai (CN)
- Causerie for Designmuseum, Gent (BE)
- Fabaltics, Riga (LV)
- Guest lecture forum 'Culture Management', Antwerp University (BE)
- Creative Ville by Flanders District of Creativity, Gent (BE)
- 'This is not design, this is the Belgian Spirit', Business of Design Week, Hong Kong
- Marketing seminar Duvel, Lille (FR)

2014

- CBi Shanghai Bridge, Shanghai (CN)
- "The Dreams of Glory" art exhibition - Shanghai Sanlin Folk Culture Festival (CN)
- Maximal Design, Inspirational Cocktail, Antwerp (BE)
- Bulthaup Design Center, Saint-Petersburg (RU)

- Riga University, Riga (Baltic States)

2015

- Design Talks at Designer Saturday, Oslo (NO)
- Beijing University, Beijing (CH)
- Talkshow at Tistou, Tokyo (JP)
- Prototyping show 2015, Kortrijk (BE)

2016

- BAD (Belgium Art Design), Ghent (BE)
- Lecture about outdoor furniture in urban settings, Tokyo (JP)
- Client event, Tokyo (JP)
- 3 days of Design, Copenhagen (DK)
- MAD, Brussels (BE)
- Master students Interior Architecture, Antwerp (BE)

2017

- Grand Opening Acoola, Malaga (ES)
- Nest / Roularta, Brussels (BE)

2018

- Etion at Extremis headquarters (BE)
- Middle East Smart Landscape Summit, Dubai

2019

- Cranbrook Academy of Art, Michigan (USA)
- Kringwerking ZORG.tech Flanders at Extremis headquarters (BE)
- Belgian Embassy, Tokyo (JP)
- Design Shanghai (CN)
- 'Health at Work' at Buro International, Tielt (BE)

+ Several lectures at architectural offices, schools and events around the world...