

## **Nipa Doshi**

**1971** Born into a Gujarati family in Bombay.

**1989** At 17, Nipa was offered a place at the National Institute of Design in Ahmedabad, where she specialised in Furniture. Nipa graduated from NID in 1994.

'Design' unless it was 'fashion' or 'interior decoration' was still unheard of as a serious career path to follow in India. Her parents, however were very supportive and encouraged her to follow her instincts. It was at NID in Ahmedabad that Nipa developed a deep appreciation of Indian handicrafts, especially textiles and it was at the market within the walls of the old city where she began to explore the link between craft, design and cultural identity.

**1994** On a visit to London, Nipa met Jasper Morrison who inspired her to apply for the Masters Degree course in Furniture design at the Royal College of Art.

**1995** Nipa was awarded a scholarship covering the fees and living expenses for the duration of her course at RCA.

**1997** Nipa Graduated from the RCA and returned to India to work with crafts people.

**1998** Nipa returned to London and worked for SCP and David Chipperfield.

## **Jonathan Levien**

**1972** Born in Elgin, Scotland.

**1988** At 16 Jonathan went to cabinet making college and then went on to join the BA design course at Bucks College in High Wycombe.

**1995** Jonathan joined the Royal college of Art MA course in furniture design where he met Nipa.

**1997** Graduated from the RCA and designed cutlery for Dansk in New York.

**1997** Joins Ross Lovegrove's studio in London.

## **Doshi Levien Design Office**

**2000** Nipa and Jonathan get married and set up Doshi Levien. A commission from Tom Dixon, creative director of 'Habitat' kick starts their studio.

**2001** Nipa and Jonathan write to Tefal following a research trip to India in 2000. They propose a project to design cookware specifically for local food cultures. This project sets the blueprint for their approach as a studio.

**2004** Invited by the Wellcome Trust to create a series of three window installations each lasting 4 months. The installations communicated the history and current objectives of the Trust to the general public.

**2005** Installation for the British Council exhibition: My World. "The new subjectivity in design."

**2006** Approached by Herman Miller to create a new office landscape.

**2007** Commissioned by Moroso to develop a collection of daybeds for Salone del Mobile 2007.

**2007** Awarded generous grant from the Arts Council of England to develop four pairs of shoes with John Lobb, Her Majesty's bootmaker on St James St in London. The project is called Apprentice and brings together fine craftsmanship and design, tradition and modernity.

## **Publications:**

**Blueprint Magazine October 2003**  
Opposites Attract. Feature.

**Elle Decoration October 2003**  
Young British Designers

**POL Oxygen Issue 6**  
What's Cooking?

**Independent Magazine Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2004**  
Bright Young Things. Feature.

**Blueprint Magazine November 2004**  
A Healthy Dose of Sparkle. Feature.

**Interni April 2005**  
United Kingdom of India. Feature.

**Blueprint Magazine June 2005**  
The Blueprint Sessions

**Frame Issue 43 2005**  
The Picture of Health. Feature.

**The World of Interiors September 2005**  
Function and Fantasy. Feature.

**Icon issue 028 October 2005**  
London is another country. Feature.

**Wallpaper March 2006**  
Made for India: tired of second best from the west, Indian design is finding its own identity. By Nipa Doshi.

**Frame issue 48 Jan/Feb 2006**  
"Their World."

**Book by Ilse Crawford published by Rizzoli**  
Home is where the heart is?

**Damn Issue 12 July/Aug 2007**  
Best of both worlds. Feature.

**Casamica Sept 2007**  
Glocal style. Cover story.

**ID Magazine Sept/Oct 2007**  
No rest for the worldly. Cover story.

**Frame Sept/ Oct 2007**  
A plural approach. Feature.

**Design Indaba/ Q4 07**  
1+1 makes 3

**Vogue India/ March 2008**  
Redesigning India

## **Awards:**

### **2003 FX Design Award**

Tefal Mosaic wins "best furnishing or accessory for residential interiors".

### **2005 Blueprint Magazine.**

Voted "Blueprint Sessions product designer of the year 2005."

### **2005 Arts Council Of England**

Generous award to produce work for the British Council exhibition "My World"

### **2005 B & B Italia**

Award to produce work for the British Council exhibition "My World"

### **2007 Wallpaper**

Best breakthrough designer.

### **2007 Arts Council of England.**

Generous award to develop four pairs of shoes with John Lobb, Her Majesty's bootmaker.

### **2007 Movado**

Future Legend Award.

## **Talks and Exhibitions:**

### **2004 Government of India Design Summit, New Delhi:-**

Nipa Doshi gave a presentation on "Cultural Capital as a resource for innovation in design."

### **2004 British Council exhibition "Global Local"**

Touring exhibition and seminar. Doshi Levien gave a talk on "cultural identity in industrial design". Doshi Levien featured alongside a selection of designers whose work applies an international sensibility, developed through research and global travel, to the local context in which they work. This exhibition was hosted by the Victoria and Albert museum after completing a tour of India.

### **2005 Pecha Kucha nights.**

The Japanese term 'Pecha Kucha' roughly translates as 'chit-chat.' Up to fourteen participants get to show 20 slides for 20 seconds each.

### **2005 Experimenta design Biennale, Lisbon.**

Installation commissioned by the British Council.

"My World: The new subjectivity in design."

This installation visited: Vilnius, Oslo, the London Design Museum and New York.

### **2005 Materialise Forum. Royal College of Art, London.**

Perception of materials in industrial design.

### **2006 Franz Meyer Museum, Mexico City**

Design and identity in emerging economies.

### **2006 ArtQuest Intersection**

Approaching collaborative practice.

### **2006 Doga Norsk Form, Norway**

The new subjectivity in Design

### **2007 Cooper Hewitt Museum.**

Unity of opposites: showcasing Charpoy range of daybeds for Moroso.

### **2007 100% Design London.**

Best Of European Design. Conversation with Jaime Hayon, Louise Campbell Jonathan Levien and Nipa Doshi. Chaired by Caroline Roux, writer, curator and journalist.

### **2008 Design Indaba**

Doshi Levien joined creative professionals from across the world to speak at the Design Indaba conference, attended by 2,000 people.

## **Synoptic Biography.**

Doshi Levien is a London based design office led by Jonathan Levien and Nipa Doshi. Nipa and Jonathan bring together two distinct and complementary approaches to their work. While Nipa's work is strongly influenced by Indian visual and material culture, Jonathan's approach is rooted in design for industrial production. Together, their work celebrates cultural diversity and explores the synthesis between technology, story telling, industrial design and craftsmanship. Doshi and Levien was established in 2000 and their work includes installation design for the Wellcome Trust, interaction design for Intel, product design for Tefal, furniture design for Moroso and shoe design for London based "aristo" bootmakers, John Lobb.