

## **Nipa Doshi.**

**1971** Born 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 onto do his BA design degree at Bucks College in High Wycombe.

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

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

**1997** Ross Lovegrove's studio in London for three years.

## **Doshi Levien Design Office.**

### **Synoptic Biography.**

**\*\*Doshi Levien\*\*** is a London based design office led by Jonathan Levien and Nipa Doshi, established in 2000. Doshi Levien's work celebrates the hybrid and explores the coming together of cultures, technology, story telling, industrial design and fine craftsmanship. Nipa's refined and astute visual direction is combined with Jonathan's precision and tenacity as an industrial designer. Doshi Levien work across disciplines and industries, they make their own rules that are based on extracting as much richness as possible out of an experience or idea. The studio gives expert advice to global brands on cultural and social insights, leading to design opportunities for the emerging economies. Doshi Levien work internationally for a broad range of clients who are leaders in their field, including Intel, Swarovski, Nokia, Authentics and Moroso.

**2000** Nipa and Jonathan 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, to explore the cultural hybrid in design.

**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." Elements of this work are later on developed for Moroso in 2007.

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

**2007** Commissioned by Moroso to develop a collection of daybeds for Salone del Mobile 2007. This work was based on Doshi Levien's installation for Experimenta in 2005. The Charpoy range marries the fine hand workmanship in Gujarat, India, with industrial production of Italy; A 'union of opposites' that becomes a defining character of Doshi Levien's approach.

**2007** Doshi Levien are 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.

**2007** Movado The Cooper Hewitt design museum in New York inaugurate their "Quick Takes" exhibition series with the Moroso 'Charpoy' range. This work is short listed and wins a Movado Future Legend award that celebrates exceptional talent in the creative arts.

**2008** "My Beautiful Backside" sofa range and "Principessa" day beds are launched at Salone Del Mobile.

**2008** Silvera and Moroso invited Doshi Levien to create an installation for Designer's Days in Paris. Nipa and Jonathan create "Myth and Material". With an irreverent and spontaneous use of colours and materials, Doshi Levien's installation explored and described the influence that Indian culture has on their designs. 'Myth and Material' looked at the many aspects of India's multilayered modern culture and emphasised, in a very natural way, how opposites coexist harmoniously: sensuousness with the spiritual and austere; functionality with creativity and imagination.

**2008** "My World", an installation created in 2005 for the Lisbon Design Biennale is invited to Paris by Mouvements Modernes for the Fiac Art fair.

**2008** "Myth and Material" travels to Moroso's New York showroom.

**2009** "Le Bobo" : Invited by Messe Frankfurt to select 80 products from the entire Ambiente show in February around which we designed an exhibition for Tendence. This installation and the objects selected reflect a view of design according to a personality. Our 'personal shopper' is Bobo.

**2010** "Paper Planes" Seating collection for Moroso Launched during Salone del Mobile. The project began with a new fabric designed incorporating Swarovski Crystal Elements.

## **Publications:**

**Blueprint Magazine October 2003**  
Opposites Attract.

**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.

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

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

**Blueprint Magazine June 2005**  
The Blueprint Sessions

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

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

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

**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.

**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.

**Design Indaba/ Q4 07**

1+1 makes 3

**Vogue India/ March 2008**

Redesigning India

**Casa and Design China/ 2008**

Ethnic Internationalism

**Architecture Und Wohnen - 3/ 2008**

Objekte mit zwei Seelen.

**Wallpaper/ May 2008**

Beat the Clock.

**Icon issue 63/ Sept 2008**

Looking into the future for Intel

**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.

**2009 Wallpaper**

Best Domestic design: 'My Beautiful Backside' sofa.

## **Talks, Exhibitions and Workshops:**

### **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.

### **2008 IIDA New York: Pioneering Design series**

Doshi Levien invited to give a lecture at Parson’s school of Design as part of IIDA’s design Pioneer series.

### **2009 IMM Cologne: Trend Lecture series**

Presentation on form and shape.

### **2009 Design Capital lecture series: State of Design Festival Australia**

Design’s Global crossroads: Keynote talk by Nipa Doshi for State of Design, Victoria.

### **2009 Electrolux Design Lab 09: Nipa Doshi invited as Jury member**

Design Lab is an annual global design competition open to undergraduate and graduate industrial design students who are invited to present innovative ideas for household appliances of the future.

### **2009 Interior lifestyle Shanghai: ‘On Design’ lecture series**

Design Identities in a connected world: Lecture by Nipa Doshi for Messe Frankfurt Shanghai.

### **2010 RCA Workshop.**

Nipa sets a project for three groups of students to create a feast responding to their experience of three wholesale food markets, Billingsgate fish market, Smithfield meat market and New Spitalfields vegetable market.

