



THE GLOBAL FORUM FOR DESIGN

Miami Beach, USA
5.-9. December 2012

Press

DESIGN MIAMI/ PRESENTS EIGHTH ANNUAL DESIGNER OF THE YEAR AWARD TO ACCONCI STUDIO

A playground structure by Acconci to be permanently installed in the Miami Design District in 2014

October 24, 2012 – Design Miami/, the global forum for design, is proud to announce that Brooklyn-based Acconci Studio has been selected as this year’s Designer of the Year. The Designer of the Year Award recognizes an internationally renowned designer or studio that has made a mark on design history, pushing the boundaries of the discipline through a singularly innovative and influential vision. An exhibition of Acconci Studio’s work will be open to the public in the Miami Design District in conjunction with Design Miami/ 2012, in which the plans for the future playground installation will be unveiled.

Vito Acconci founded the architecture and design collaborative Acconci Studio in 1988 as the next evolution of his rich and varied creative practice, which began in the 1960s with a focus on concrete poetry and continued through the ‘70s and ‘80s with a genre-defining body of work in performance and conceptual art. The trajectory of his career demonstrates an acute and steadfast interest in generating unexpected and intense interactions, in actively engaging both people and public places to explore the spectrum of human response. The architectural projects produced by Acconci Studio carry forward this commitment, comprising fluid and shifting spaces and objects aimed at encouraging out-of-the-ordinary communal experiences.

Acconci Studio’s boundary-defying approach draws on and intermingles the conceptual basis of Vito’s earlier work, employing art-grounded ideas to “thicken the plot,” in the artist’s words. Yet, Acconci Studio is dedicated to production in the realms of architecture and design because this where there is the greatest possibility to impact everyday living, to surprise, challenge, and enchant people as they go about their lives. The comingling of material and ideas to expand the definition of function and to uncover higher purposes for our built environment positions Acconci Studio at the vanguard of design discourse today.

The Design Miami/ Designer of the Year Award grants each winner a commission to create a large-scale work. Over the years, Design Miami/ has seized opportunities to activate the award as a means to “give back” to the Miami community. Previous examples include the fence that Marc Newson designed for the Design and Architecture Senior High in the Miami Design District, and Konstantin Grcic’s Netscape seating structure donated to Miami Art Museum to be used in the public space of the new Herzog & de Meuron building. Moving forward, a permanent and public installation of the Designer of the Year commission will be an integral and unconditional goal of the program. Acconci Studio’s collaborative and interactive mission is ideally suited to this kind of community-enhancing brief.

For this year's commission, Acconci Studio will produce a climbing/playing structure to be permanently installed in the Miami Design District by 2014. Klein-Bottle Playground, as the structure is called, was originally developed for the humanitarian "Art for the World" program, as part of a touring exhibition of experimental recreational equipment and toys for refugee children. Acconci Studio's contribution was inspired by the German mathematician Felix Klein, who expanded the concept of a Moebius strip into a structure – a "Klein Bottle" – in which there is no identifiable "inside" or "outside," as one surface flows continuously into the other. Acconci Studio has transformed this mathematical construct into a playground, in which a series of tubes extend out from and into a central sphere, such that children can climb in, through and on top. The installation of Acconci Studio's Klein-Bottle Playground in the Miami Design District will provide the first public area in the neighborhood dedicated to children.

The Designer of the Year Award is supported by the Miami Design District.

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Public Show Schedule

December 5-9, 2012

Wednesday, December 5, 11am-9pm

Thursday, December 6 - Saturday, December 9, 12-8pm

Sunday, December 9, 12-6pm

By invitation only Events

Preview Day

Tuesday, December 4

Collectors Preview, 12-6pm

Vernissage, 6-9pm

Thursday, December 6

Collectors Breakfast, 10-11:30am

Press Reception

Tuesday, December 4 (Registration required)

Press Reception, 3-4pm

Press Preview, 4-6pm

Press can pre-register online at: <http://services.designmiami.com/press>

ABOUT DESIGN MIAMI/

Design Miami/ is the global forum for design. Each fair brings together the most influential collectors, gallerists, designers, curators and critics from around the world in celebration of design culture and commerce. Occurring alongside the Art Basel fairs in Miami, USA each December and Basel, Switzerland each June, Design Miami/ has become the premier venue for collecting, exhibiting, discussing and creating collectible design. For more information, please visit www.designmiami.com and www.designmiamilog.com

ABOUT THE MIAMI DESIGN DISTRICT

The Miami Design District is immediately north of downtown Miami. Developed by Miami Design District Associates, a partnership between Dacra and L Real Estate, the Miami Design District is a neighborhood defined by creativity, design, and commerce. It is the

location of choice for exclusive retailers and fashion brands including Cartier, Celine, En Avance, Louis Vuitton, Maison Martin Margiela, Marni and Sebastien James; and the home of top restaurateurs and chefs. Michael's Genuine Food & Drink, Harry's Pizzeria, Crumb on Parchment and MC Kitchen (Opening November 2012) have transformed the District into Miami's hot new restaurant row. The Miami Design District is also home to world-renowned furniture and design companies and art galleries, among them Vitra, Triade, Luminaire, Kartell, Poltrona Frau, Baxter, Waterworks, Holly Hunt, De La Cruz Collection Contemporary Art Space, Locust Projects, and 101 Exhibit. For more information, please visit www.miamidesigndistrict.net

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