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Contemporary Israeli Designers unveil 'Creative Roughness'

By Emily Chen and Tiffany Ma, Special to The China Post July 13, 2016, 12:38 am TWN

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TAIPEI, Taiwan -- How did Israel become one of the leading powers in innovation and design? Despite its critical geographical location and limited resources, Israel transformed itself through design concepts and creative methods in order to overcome its limitations. From July 9 to Aug. 14, "Creative Roughness — Contemporary Israeli Design" (質樸創意學—當代以色列設計展) is showcasing some of the extraordinary breakthroughs Israel has accomplished over the past 20 years. Led by renowned curator Alon Razgour, the exhibition features 300 selected pieces produced by 45 Israeli designers, ready to awe attendees. Out of the many beautiful and innovative pieces, here are only a few.



Renowned curator Alon Razgour, left, and designer Nilly Mozer explain the concepts of contemporary Israel design to Beatrice Hsieh, commissioner of the Department of Cultural Affairs, Taipei City. (Courtesy of WDC Taipei)

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Yuval Carmel and Ofir Zandani from COZI Studio have integrated different textures and materials to create unique shapes. Their complex figures require extensive planning and molding in 3D programs to prevent the wood from splitting. Their "Bloom" series is made from bent wood, but the fluid shape resembles a blossoming flower, creating an eye-catching lighting piece

Their "Wrinkled" piece is also made of bent wood, but instead of flowing curves, the bowl features

sharper angles, similar to wrinkled sketchbook paper. Inspired by children's pop-up books, Chen Bikovski has created intricate lighting pieces that resemble origami. The "Deer Head" lamp creates a minimalist deer silhouette while allowing cutout sections to act as the deer's antlers. As the most popular piece from Popup Lighting, the Deer Head creates a subtle light source, unique and beautiful. Both COZI Studio and Popup Lighting bring astounding pieces that are sure to add a creative element to your home — you never need to sacrifice practicality for appearance again.

Contemporary Israeli Design fascinates the younger generation with its breakthroughs, and also evokes a taste of tradition for nostalgic individuals. Both Moriel Dezaldeti and Neil Nenner have incorporated traditional knitting techniques into contemporary fashion. Using a simple but elegant design, Dezaldeti paints a product of time into daily dress through the hours needed to create each detail and its historical relevance. Another product that highlights the beauty of weaving techniques is Nenner's "PUNTI Bench" and "Bar Chair." Traditional knitting meets modern furniture with smooth cohesion; instead of creating a graceless environment, the colorfully woven fabric adds lively vibes and enhances textures in any accommodation.

The goal of the World Design Capital (臺北世界設計之都) is to expose viewers to different perspectives of the world, curator Alon Razgour told The China Post. "I want to describe what I see. From the colors, to the feelings and the materials, we try to choose the products that help me explain this feeling." He also expressed his fondness for Taiwan by comparing it to his native country, Israel. "Israel is a small country, and we feel like an island. I think Taiwan and Israel are similar and we think alike. Together, we can build something new." He believes that design is a gift to the world and deserves to be shared.

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