


## MR PORTER

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THE JOURNAL

## THE PORTFOLIO: SALONE DEL MOBILE

MAY 7, 2013

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## MR MATTEO THUN

ARCHITECT AND DESIGNER

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**Photography by VanMossevelde+N**

**Styling by Mr Andrea Tenerani | Words by Mr Nick Vinson, Vinson&Co**

**A**rchitect and designer Mr Matteo Thun founded Sottsass Associati with the legendary Ettore Sottsass in 1980 before setting up his own office in Milan. Today Matteo Thun & Partners has a 50-strong team working internationally on architectural, interior and product design projects. Mr Thun's architectural work focuses on sustainability and environment, illustrated in the Hugo Boss Business Unit in Coldrerio, Switzerland, and concept store in New York. The Vigilius Mountain Resort and Terme Merano, both in South Tyrol, make him the go-to man for resorts that fit seamlessly into exquisite natural settings.

For this year's Salone del Mobile he presented new products for brands including Artemide and Venini, and his new book *Matteo Thun: The Index Book*, published by Hatje Cantz. [matteothun.com](http://matteothun.com)

*Q.* **What is it that makes Italian design and made in Italy so unique?**

*A.* The tradition, the history, food, architecture, art and the art of life. After all we have the worst performance of democracy, yet the art of life survives.

*Q.* **Why do you think Milan is a focus of both design and fashion?**

*A.* Foreigners believe so, and all the 60 or so who work in my office think they are in the centre. Surprisingly the Milan nightlife is great for the youngsters.

*Q.* **Italian design is known the world over. Why do you think that is?**

*A.* Its not about Italian design, it's about a holistic approach working in architecture, interiors, light design and styling. This is called the Milan school; it's anti-academic, as normally you learn one but not all together.

*Q.* **Why do architecture, design and fashion cross over so much?**

*A.* Because this town gives you the opportunity to be in a big family, and friendship between parties gives a crossover of information. Milan is a small town; we meet for dinner, for parties, and we exchange.



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