

APARTMENT ZERO  
CELEBRATES 20 YEARS  
OF CULTURAL DIPLOMACY, DESIGN EXHIBITIONS  
AND PARTNERSHIPS WITH EMBASSIES AND AREA MUSEUMS  
1999-2019



The **Washington DC International Design Festival** premiered as the first of its kind in the nation's capital. Featuring **The Next Wave Industrial Design Exhibition**, a 4,000 square foot curated space of over 200 objects from around the world, it also included 8 public educational programs that featured 25 curators, journalists and design critics. The festival culminated with the appearance of world-renowned industrial designer Roberto Palomba. Partnerships with The Embassy of Spain and The Embassy of Italy, as well as the IDSA and Surface Magazine made this inaugural design festival a local and internationally sensation.



APARTMENT ZERO

# HIGHLIGHTS FROM 1999-2019

## Visiting International Industrial Designers and Curators who collaborated with Apartment Zero

### **\*Marcel Wanders, The Netherlands**

- Karim Rashid, USA
- James Dyson, Britain
- Roberto Palomba, Italy
  - Harry Allen, USA
  - Martin Azua, Spain
- David Trubridge, The Netherlands
- Laurene and Constantin Boym, USA
  - Angela Adams, USA
  - Ingegard Raman, Sweden
    - Peter Danko, USA
    - Jonah Takagi, USA
  - Jurgen Bey, The Netherlands
    - Josh Owen, USA
    - Robert Foster, Australia
    - Oiva Toikka, Finland
    - Norway Says, Norway
  - Yksi Design, The Netherlands
    - Tachi Mora, Spain
    - Ellen Lupton, USA



APARTMENT ZERO



**Patrizia Moroso at the Watergate Hotel:** Apartment Zero joined forces with Moroso creative director Patrizia Moroso for a presentation of her new introductions from Milan, as well as new product novelties by industrial designer Ron Arad, who designed the remodel of the iconic and infamous Watergate Hotel in Washington DC. Members of the design trade attended this event which was sponsored by Moroso USA.



**Can Design Be Genderless at the National Museum of Women in the Arts:** Apartment Zero was invited to assist with this FRESH TALK public programming series which explored Gabriel Ann Maher's fluid gender identity and how it informs her/his work on gender politics and art. Alice Rawsthorn also discussed the role of gender identity in design—from early prejudices toward women to contemporary theory.



**SOS Spanish Office Showroom:** Apartment Zero collaborated with the Embassy of Spain to create a new exhibition at the embassy's cultural center featuring the commercial work of BD Barcelona, Metalarte, Santa&Cole and more which culminated in an editorial fashion shoot and full page feature for FW, the Washington Post's fashion insert. Members of the design community attended this festive event.



**Artis Nimanis and Christmas at the Latvian Embassy:** Apartment Zero joined forces with the Embassy of Latvia and glass artist Artis Nimanis to showcase his hand-blown glass sculptures as well as pieces in production from his brand An & Angel. Additionally, Apartment Zero decorated the Embassy of Latvia for its special Christmas holiday market which promoted unusual design objects from Latvia during this unique event.



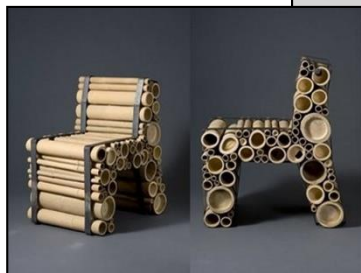
**David Trubridge:** New Zealand-based industrial designer known for his iconic furniture, lighting and use of recycled materials joined Apartment Zero and Wakanine to present an evening of education and inspiration at the **New Zealand Embassy**. CEU credits were given to AIA and ASID members at an earlier workshop called “The Beauty of Design.” Members of the design community marveled at the custom lighting installation arranged for this event in the embassy’s main atrium. The Ambassador and David Trubridge inspired the crowd of over 350 with inspirational stories of New Zealand’s design history.



**Cutting Edge Spanish Crafts:** Apartment Zero joined forces with the **Embassy of Spain** to welcome this international exhibition by Spanish curator **Tachy Mora** by moderating a conversation about the distinct differences between art, design and craft. A reception and book signing followed with the curator and members of the public, while Apartment Zero lead tours of the exhibition for members of the design community.



**Industrial Design: Taking Products from Concept to Market:** Apartment Zero was invited to create a program for members of Washington DC-based **I-Strategy Labs**, an incubator organization consisting of experimental marketing and social media, that explored the process of creating a product from A to Z and all the steps in between, from conception to marketing and beyond.



**ReUse, ReTouch, ReDutch:** Apartment Zero joined Netherlands-based curator **Yksi Design** and **The Netherlands Embassy** to present an exhibition of over 100 objects that explored the social and economic impact of sustainable materials in product design. Dutch designer **Tejo Remy** discussed his iconic milk bottle lamp and chest of drawers objects for Droog Design, and members of the public were treated the next day to a complementary exhibition at the Newseum.



**Tapas, Spanish Design For Food:** Apartment Zero joined forces with the **Embassy of Spain** to welcome this comprehensive exhibition of food, furniture and tabletop design to Washington DC, as one of only two cities in the U.S. to receive this massive show. Conceived by Spanish curator **Juli Capella**, Apartment Zero created public programming and targeted tours, including a discussion with design editor **Linda Hales**. To kick off the worldwide exhibition, **Douglas Burton** was invited to speak at the **European Union Delegation, Washington DC** as part of its Conversations in Culture series.



**Bravos: Groundbreaking Spanish Design:** In collaboration with the **Embassy of Spain**, Apartment Zero presented BRAVOS, a unique design exhibition that portrayed the innovation and diversity of the new Spanish design scene. It included the work of twenty-one of the most talented and successful young Spanish designers of today, and represented the best industrial design creations of the Spanish Design Boom. The exhibition was presented in conjunction with The Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (AECID), the **American University Museum at the Katzen Center** and the Embassy of Spain in Washington DC as part of the Cultural Program: SPAIN ARTS & CULTURE. **Juli Capella**, the curator of the exhibition, spoke on behalf of the selected generation of Spanish Designers.



**Sunny Memories: The Fusion of Solar Technology and Industrial Design** – in partnership with Apartment Zero, the **Embassy of Switzerland** presented this intriguing exhibit at the **Washington Design Center**. A project that involved more than 80 students from four leading design schools, this exhibit explored the broad new realm of technology, energy, and design that solar dye cells have heralded. Led by the EPFL+ECAL Lab in Lausanne, Switzerland, the “Sunny Memories” workshop took place in collaboration with the University of Art and Design Lausanne (ECAL), the California College of the Arts (CCA), the Royal College of Art in London (RCA) and the Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Création Industrielle in Paris (ENSCI).



**Jonah Takagi: New American Design** – Apartment Zero partnered with **Civilian Art Projects** to launch the work of this Japanese-born, American-based industrial designer whose work has been gaining attention and who has been featured internationally. Atelier Takagi is a multi-disciplinary design studio and workshop producing objects that require closer examination, that inspire, inform and re-contextualize our surroundings. Jonah has won numerous international design awards, including Bernhardt Design’s Best American Designer at ICFF, and has been featured in Wallpaper, Metropolis, Dwell, Intramuros, Interior Design and Details, and now designs for DWR.



**Sevres: Then and Now, Hillwood Museum and Gardens:** In conjunction with the **Hillwood Museum exhibition, Sevres: Then and Now**, Apartment Zero owner Douglas Burton discussed how industrial design blended with and reacted to minimalism and decoration throughout the 20th and 21st centuries, while curator **Liana Paredes** joined Douglas and introduced the little known yet fascinating Sèvres creations of the same period. Highlights of the presentation included comparisons and contrasts with other avant-garde objects of note spanning from 1920 to 2010 and discussed in relation to the contemporary Sèvres designs in this elegant exhibit.



**Foodjects:** the Spain-USA Foundation and Apartment Zero, in collaboration with the **Embassy of Spain**, presented the worldwide premier of **Foodjects: Design and the New Cuisine in Spain**, a careful selection of more than 100 objects that covered the relation between chefs, designers and companies in Spain, inside Apartment Zero's showroom. Conceived by curator **Martín Azúa**, under a variety of headings: "science and art", "tradition and cross-breeding", etc., pieces included the cutlery of Javier Mariscal, the glasses of Oscar Tusquets, Patricia Urquiola's coffee service for Rosenthal and Jaime Hayón's decorative pieces for Lladró, to the ham stand by Alejandro Mingarro as well as objects designed by **Ferran Adrià**. The exhibit then travelled North and South America, before splitting into two exhibits which continue to travel around the world today.



**The Phillips Collection:** Apartment Zero owner Douglas Burton presented the program: "**When Objects Work**", an exploration of the history of industrial design, from mass production to sustainable design and beyond. Burton presented the ideas behind the final product, how they have changed over time including how industrial design affects our daily lives. This event was part of the exhibition **Morandi: Master of Modern Still Life** and also included a "Make your own Morandi" photo contest on Flickr.com that encouraged participants to create their own contemporary version of a Morandi painting. Winners were judged by Burton, DCist.com and The Washington Studio School.



**Robert Foster: Fink & Co.** Apartment Zero, in collaboration with the **Embassy of Australia** and Craft ACT: Craft and Design Centre, presented the distinctive work of Fink & Co., Robert Foster's Canberra-based design group. A selection of innovative designer tableware was showcased at Apartment Zero complementing a retrospective exhibition of the entire Fink & Co. line at the Embassy of Australia. Robert Foster has explored the versatility and potential of aluminum, one of Australia's most important resources, creating unique products for the home environment that are both utilitarian and beautiful.



**All Horizons, Quebec Design** -was presented in conjunction with the **Embassy of Canada** and the **Design Center at the University of Quebec, Montreal**. This traveling exhibition was part of a larger program celebrating the 400th year anniversary of Quebec City and was presented with the Smithsonian Associates for its DC run. Sponsored by the Embassy, Apartment Zero traveled to Montreal and hand-picked objects from 15 local industrial designers to showcase in its showroom as a complement to the exhibition at the embassy. Prototypes, one-offs and pieces in production were exhibited alongside mass-produced items to showcase Quebec design in its most unusual form.



**Marc Newson for Dom Perignon** -was presented at Apartment Zero as one of only a few chosen locations in the U.S. to showcase this unique limited-edition product. The neon-green and orange ice bucket designed specifically for the elegant champagne purveyor, made its mark one special evening at Apartment Zero to a crowd of admiring fans of this Australian designer's work. The oversized object was showcased in the showroom and in downtown DC spaces to launch this special month of iconic design.



**Spotlight Sweden** – A series of 3 separate events, Apartment Zero proudly partnered with the opening of the new **House of Sweden/Embassy of Sweden** by creating an exhibit of Scandinavian products in its showroom, from pieces in production to prototypes in furniture, lighting, fiber and glass. Apartment Zero also premiered **New Scandinavian Design**, a book by author **Kathryn Nelson** of Metropolitan Home magazine, who signed copies at the event. Iconic designer **Ingegard Roman** was also present for the opening as well as the Swedish ambassador, **Gunnar Lund**. Additionally, Apartment Zero's owner Douglas Burton was invited to speak at the embassy during a symposium of Swedish design which included Swedish brands Orrefors and Kosta Boda.



**Going Dutch** – Apartment Zero was proud to present an exhibition of contemporary Dutch design, "Going Dutch", in its showroom. Dutch designer **Pim van den Akker's** avant-garde floral designs were featured, as well as a selection of products from porcelain to furniture by Dutch companies Goods, Royal Tichelaar Makkum, Artifort and Moooi. Apartment Zero's exhibition was in conjunction with "**Meet the Dutch**"; a week of events celebrating Dutch-American friendship, sponsored by the **Royal Netherlands Embassy**, with visits by ambassador **Van Enneman** and architect **Rem Koolhaas**.



**Windows on Industrial Design** – Apartment Zero presented “Windows on Industrial Design” a design event in conjunction with the **National Conference of the Industrial Design Society of America (IDSA)**, which held its annual conference in Washington DC. Apartment Zero received a **Momentum Award** from the city for achievement in supporting the arts for this event. Additionally, Apartment Zero’s owner Douglas Burton took part in a panel discussion panel during the conference to discuss innovations in product design. Local industrial designers, their work in production, prototypes and concepts were featured in Apartment Zero’s window and in 7 separate window displays throughout the city. Designers included **Inna Alesina, Roland Bears Staana, Cristian Wicha, Jeff Jenkins, Arthur Carr, Scott Mason, and Tom Shiner.** A series of 3 events over two months.



**James Dyson** – Apartment Zero welcomed international design phenomenon **James Dyson** to its showroom in an evening celebrating British Industrial Designer James Dyson: The Art of Engineering. Dyson gave a presentation and led a discussion to a standing-room-only crowd at the Navy Memorial Auditorium and then visited Apartment Zero to mingle with customers and sign books at a reception. Co-Sponsored by the IDSA.



**Nordic Cool –Hot Women Designers Exhibition** at the **National Museum of Women in the Arts**. From celebrated furniture, fabric and glass to the latest in digital short film and web design, the items chosen for the exhibit were among the finest examples of beautiful and functional design created in Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. Apartment Zero complemented this exhibition by **designing/furnishing the museum’s reading room with Swedish design pieces (exclusively made by women)** in a sleek contemporary style to harmonize with the theme, and by **loaning 30 pieces from its own collection to the museum exhibit.** The exhibition continued at Apartment Zero where a number of unique Nordic products by women in the exhibition were displayed.



**MICA Exhibition** – Apartment Zero, hosted a special exhibition titled **BUY\*PRODUCT**, a collection of original designs for the home, office, and person, created by talented members of the Graphic Design MFA Studio at **Maryland Institute College of Art**. BUY\*PRODUCT, curated by **Ellen Lupton**, was a commentary on how people live in today’s society. Each item used contemporary materials, found objects, and cultural icons to yield a fresh and functional object. All proceeds went to support the MFA program.





**InterfaceFlor** – Focusing on new discoveries in design technologies, Apartment Zero welcomed the debut of InterfaceFLOR's new high-style carpet-tile floor coverings, and was the first gallery in the U.S. to show these tiles. This exhibit and launch of a commercial product to a residential audience was a provocative new line only carried by Apartment Zero, in an effort to bring the latest product design to the community.



**Oiva Toikka Exhibition** – Apartment Zero presented the work of Oiva Toikka, the distinguished and beloved Finnish glass designer, who was present on two separate dates, one in 2003 and again in 2005 to celebrate Finnish Design Year. This presentation was a collaboration with the **Embassy of Finland** with exhibits at both the embassy and at Apartment Zero. In addition, Apartment Zero created a shop-within-a-shop of Finnish design **brand litala**, for both exhibits.



**Tapio Wirkkala, Design Legend from Finland** – Apartment Zero executed a collaborative effort with the **Embassy of Finland**, who with the **Finnish Museum of Art and Design** presented the exhibition, Tapio Wirkkala. This was the first comprehensive view of the enormous genius of Tapio Wirkkala (1915-1985), a pioneer of Finnish industrial art and a symbol of the international success of postwar Finnish design. The exhibition revealed his enormous creative output and mastery of material-glass, porcelain, metal, wood and plastic. Complementing the exhibition, Apartment Zero displayed at the embassy, Wirkkala's pieces in current production, from litala, Rosenthal, and Venini.



**Intersection: Craft Artisans and Industrial Designers in the 21st Century -The Smithsonian Associates Masters Program** and Apartment Zero presented a free symposium examining the ever-blurring lines of distinction between craft artisans and industrial designers in the new millennium. Traditionally viewed as two parallel professions running in opposite directions, the two are now beginning to intersect in terms of material choice and manufacturing techniques. Participants included: **Harry Allen, Industrial Designer; Constantin and Laurene Leon Boym, Industrial Designers; Peter Danko, Craft Artisan; Clive Dilnot, Senior Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, Parsons School of Design; David Revere McFadden, Chief Curator, Museum of Arts and Design; Ellen Lupton, Curator of Contemporary Design at The Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum and moderated by Heidi Nasstrom Evans, Decorative Arts Historian.**



Norway Says  
Nov'02

**Norway Says** -The designers of Norway Says are out to break with convention and shake up the system, describing their design style as “straight, simple, unpretentious, and honest.” Norway Says premiered its most exciting new furniture designs in a decidedly avant-garde display in the **Main Hall at Union Station**. The three designers, Torbjorn Anderssen, Andreas Engesvik, and Tore Borgersen, were on hand to discuss their vision at Apartment Zero’s showroom. In addition, Apartment Zero hosted a reception for the designers at their showroom, in collaboration with **The Embassy of Norway**.



Dutch Design with Marcel Wanders & Jurgen Bey  
March'02

**Celebrating Dutch Design** – a month-long city-wide event featuring co-sponsors such as **the Corcoran Gallery of Art, the Royal Netherlands Embassy, Virginia Design Forum, Whole Foods Markets and Fusebox Gallery**. Apartment Zero connected this wide variety of institutions to present an exhibition and lecture series on the avant-garde in Dutch Design and visual art. Visiting designers from the Netherlands included **Marcel Wanders, Jurgen Bey and Andre Martens as well as artists Margi Geerlinks and Jan-Marc Spaans**. The curated exhibit featured the work of Hella Jongerius, Richard Hutten, Job Smeets, Henk Stallinga and Claudy Jongstra, in addition to the latest student work from Eindhoven, to name a few. In addition, Apartment Zero **premiered Marcel Wanders’ “Can of Gold,”** a philanthropic project which donated over \$20,000 to the Capital Area Food Bank. This Apartment Zero conceived exhibition was transformed into a traveling show **to Los Angeles and Mexico City. With over 15 events in 8 different venues** throughout the city, this festival garnered international attention.



Jonathan Adler Oct'02

**Jonathan Adler** – the New York based potter, showcased his entire collection, signed objects as well as premiered custom bespoke pieces designed specifically for Apartment Zero. Adler also spoke about his “Aid to Artisans” program that employs artists from Peru and New Mexico to use their native skills and heritage to benefit their local community.



Angela Adams Feb'01

**Angela Adams** -the Maine based weaver Angela Adams premiered her collection of hand-loomed rugs, hand-formed furniture and accessories prominently known for their beauty and sophistication.



**Karim Rashid** – the prolific and award-winning New York based industrial designer, best known for his work with Issey Miyake, Nike, Foscarini, Magis, Prada, and more discussed his inspiration and signed many of his products. The exhibition featured more than 50 of his international product designed objects to a crowd of over 500.



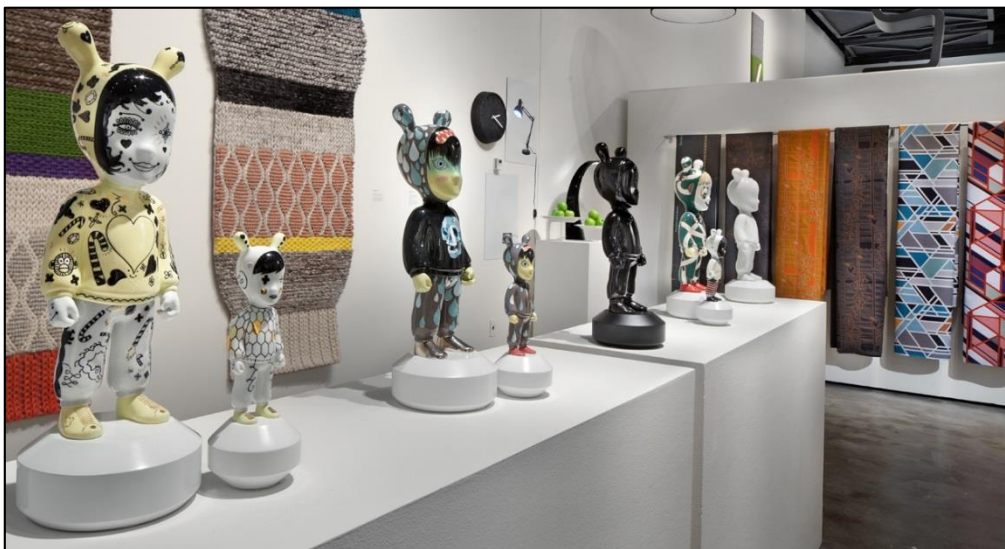
**Blu Dot** – the Minneapolis based architects, Blu Dot, presented their work in conjunction with the Walker Arts Center in Minneapolis. This exhibit showcased the designs of this award-winning trio, who the Cooper-Hewitt Design Museum recently nominated for an industrial design award.

**Valley of the Dolls** – a performance piece with designer Michael H. Graves and visual artist, Mark Bennett. The event was co-sponsored by Conner Contemporary Art Gallery.



**The Hirshhorn Museum** – Co-sponsored local artisan, Dan Steinhilber's exhibition and conversation, and furnished/donated the contemplation space for artist Jim Hodges inside the museum.

**Other Events** – Apartment Zero has also hosted book release events with local author Deborah Dietsch (Simon & Shuster), the AIA Residential Design Awards with Washingtonian Magazine, The Shakespeare Bard Society functions, the traveling Mono Tabletop exhibit from Germany, Saks Fifth Avenue's Save the Music fundraiser, and the National Building Museum Silver Anniversary Fundraiser.



**Douglas Burton** has been a featured public speaker on the topic of industrial design for The European Union, The Phillips Collection-Washington, Hillwood Museum and Gardens-Washington, The Embassy of Sweden-Washington, the Industrial Designers Society of America (IDSA)- Washington, The International Appraisers Association- Washington, The World Trade Center-Dallas, The Seattle Gift Market, the High Point NC Market, The Specialty Leasing Conference-Nashville, The Netherlands Embassy-Washington, The Art Institute-Washington and the Corcoran Gallery of Art-Washington.

Along with co-owner **Christopher Ralston**, their design gallery, Apartment Zero, has appeared locally on ABC, CBS, FOX and NBC stations and appeared nationally on HGTV, the Style Network and the BBC and has been featured in the Washington Post, the New York Times, the Chicago Tribune, Surface, Wallpaper, Dwell, Food and Wine, Travel and Leisure, Details, GQ, Metropolitan Home, Conde Nast Traveler, Azure, Elle Decor, In Style, Metropolis, Interior Design, I.D., Lucky, Domino, House Beautiful, Elle, Fodor's, Dezeen, VM+SD, Home and Design, DC Modern Luxury, Southern Living, Oprah Magazine, Abitare, WHERE, Washingtonian, Capitol File and more

Apartment Zero was the recipient of the Momentum Award from the city of Washington DC for its efforts to raise awareness of poverty through design fundraising.

Apartment Zero has collaborated with the National Museum of Women in the Arts, The Corcoran Gallery of Art, The National Building Museum, the Hirshhorn Museum, the Smithsonian Institution, The Phillips Collection, Hillwood Museum and Gardens, MICA, the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum and the Embassies of Spain, Australia, Sweden, Finland, Norway, Canada, The Netherlands, Italy, Latvia, New Zealand and Switzerland.

The following industrial designers/curators appeared on behalf of Apartment Zero in Washington DC: James Dyson, Marcel Wanders, Karim Rashid, Ingegard Raman, Constantin and Laurene Boym, Harry Allen, Peter Danko, Martin Azua, Juli Capella, Jonah Takagi, Robert Foster, Jurgen Bey, Roberto Palomba, Ellen Lupton, Oiva Toikka, Norway Says, Jonathan Adler, Angela Adams and more.

Specialties: public speaking on the topic of industrial design innovation, visual merchandising and marketing specialist, interior design specialist, retail store buyer, publicity specialist, curator of design exhibitions



## Cultural Organizations Who Partnered With Apartment Zero

**The National Museum of Women in the Arts**

**The Phillips Collection**

**The Hirshhorn Museum**

**The Smithsonian Institution and Smithsonian Associates**

**The Corcoran Gallery of Art**

**The Museum of Fine Arts Houston**

**The Indianapolis Museum of Art**

**Hillwood Museum and Gardens**

**The European Union Washington DC**

**The Embassies of Sweden, Finland, Norway, The Netherlands, Italy, New Zealand, Australia, Latvia, Canada and Spain**

**The Industrial Designers Society of America (IDSA)**

**The American Institute of Architects (AIA)**

**Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA)**

**The International Appraisers Association**

**The Art Institute**

**The World Trade Center Dallas**

**The Seattle Design Center**

**The High Point International Market**

**Shelburne Museum**