

MIKKO LAAKKONEN, MA

Mikko Laakkonen is a Finnish product and furniture designer who founded his own design studio in 2004 in Helsinki. Mikko has worked with various international clients throughout his career, and most recently he has collaborated with Martela for the new coat rack, Kaari, as part of the "Inspiring Meetings" concept.

Born in Espoo in 1974, Mikko started life as a musical instrument maker where he applied his love of music with designing and building. This created a solid understanding of materials and craftsmanship, which provided the foundation for his Bachelor's Degree in design at the Kymenlaakso Polytechnic. He then continued his studies at the University of Arts and Design Helsinki where he gained a Master's Degree. His background has led to influences of Finnish, Nordic and Scandinavian design in his work. Mikko also views his finished furniture not as "products", but "tools" for interior architects. He used to work at an interior architects office so has a strong understand of his audience and the perspective they view things from, which helps him to design better products.

Mikko has previously worked with companies around the world and participated in many global exhibitions including Abitare con il rame (2007), Materia e colore/Triennale di Milano Promosedia Caiazza Memorial Challenge (2007), Rehti exhibitions at the Milan furniture fair (2005, 2006, 2007) and Saunabus exhibition (2003). Mikko has also been presented with numerous awards throughout his career; highlights include being awarded The Young Designer of the Year Prize in 2009 and a GOOD DESIGN Award in 2010.

Mikko will continue his collaboration with Martela and is set to enjoy further success in the future.

For more information about Mikko then visit: www.mikkolaakkonen.com

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