

For Immediate Release

## International Design Leaders Converge in Hong Kong for DFA Awards An award publication features each of the winning design excellence



(from left): Trophy presenter the Honorable Mr. Edward Yau Tang-wah, GBS, JP, Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development; Dr Andrew Dent, DFA Design Leadership Award winner; Mr. Sebastian Conran, on behalf of DFA Lifetime Achievement Award winner Sir Terence Conran; Lyndon Neri, on behalf of DFA World's Outstanding Chinese Designer winners Mr. Lyndon Neri and Ms. Rossana Hu; Professor Eric Yim, JP, Chairman of Hong Kong Design Centre.

[HONG KONG, 8 December 2018] A multitude of DFA Awards collateral events celebrating design excellence stemming the region and recognising the highest level of design thinking, innovation from an Asian perspective were just completed in applause. The Hong Kong Design Centre kicked-off events with the presentation ceremony acknowledging 187 industry leading design projects through the **DFA Design for Asia Awards** as well as 16 emerging local forces with the **DFA Hong Kong Young Design Talent Award**. Following on, three major awards were conferred at the Business of Design Week (BODW) Gala Dinner, in front of the world's leading designers and business leaders - **DFA Lifetime Achievement Award** to **Sir Terence Conran**, an English designer, restaurateur, retailer and writer; **DFA Design Leadership Award** to **Dr. Andrew Dent**, a leading expert on sustainable materials; **DFA World's Outstanding Chinese Designer** to **Mr. Lyndon Neri and Ms. Rossana Hu**, architects, interior and product designers.

**Professor Eric C. Yim, JP, Chairman, Hong Kong Design Centre** stated that "This year the DFA Awards reaffirmed its position as a leading and visionary advocate of forward-thinking design. Across the five pillars of the Awards, from prominent design titans to emerging talents from Hong Kong, and designs in Asia and for Asia, the breadth and depth of Asian design thinking has been demonstrated through the 2018 awardees. Looking forward, as we build on the DFA Awards, we will continue with our mission to promote the design economy thus generating greater value across society."

Concurrent to BODW, selected winners were invited to share their design thinking and how it created impact for Asia at the **DFA: Design for Asia and Culture & The City** forums; an open to public exhibition featuring all winning projects of DFA Design for Asia Awards and portfolios of DFA Hong Kong Young Design Talent Award was held at the HKTDC Pavilion in DesignInspire.

“This year’s winners combine beautiful aesthetics with outstanding engineering and immaculate execution. Creatives from China to South Korea, Taiwan, Japan and beyond continue to produce work that is respectful of the past and of traditional craftsmanship, as well as leading at the forefront of innovation”, said Mr. Paul Priestman, Chairman, PriestmanGoode and judging panel member of DFA Design for Asia Awards 2018.

### **The Awards Publication - Design for Asia: DFA Awards 2018**

To celebrate design excellence and promote design thinking, the Awards publication ***Design for Asia: DFA Awards 2018*** (ISBN: 978-988-13863-5-9) is published by Hong Kong Design Centre, featuring the design philosophy behind each of the DFA Design for Asia Awards winning project, as well as the portfolios of the winners of DFA Lifetime Achievement Award, DFA Design Leadership Award, DFA World’s Outstanding Chinese Designer and DFA Hong Kong Young Design Talent Award.

### **DFA Awards 2018 Results Overview**

#### **DFA Lifetime Achievement Award 2018**

**Sir Terence Conran / Founder, Conran Holdings Ltd.**

*“I’m not fashionable. I believe in plain, simple, useful things”*

Sir Terence Conran, is an English designer, restaurateur, retailer and writer, whose tastes, judgement and vision have had a very positive influence worldwide since the 1950s. His deep, active involvement in architecture and design, furniture and food, as well as the books he has written, reflects his clear, straightforward philosophy. Conran believes in the power of intelligent design to change and improve the quality of people’s lives and that every designer should have a personal understanding of materials and processes. As an entrepreneurial designer, he thinks that it was frustration that led him toward many of his endeavours and he believes that every designer should have a personal understanding of materials and processes. Channelling his versatile creativity into a lifetime design, Sir Terence has consistently pioneered his ethos that clean-lined, contemporary furniture for relaxed living and good, accessible design improve the quality of everyday life.

#### **DFA Design Leadership Award 2018**

**Dr. Andrew Dent / Executive Vice-President, Research, Material ConneXion, Inc.**

*“The growing library of material solutions and its influence on the next generation of designers is a source of great pride for me.”*

Andrew Dent is Executive Vice-President & Vice-President, Library and Materials Research Material ConneXion, Inc., and Chief Material Scientist at SANDOW, its parent company. He plays a key role in the expansion of their technical knowledge and directs consulting projects and the selection of innovative,

sustainable and advanced materials for Material ConneXion's library, which currently houses more than 8,000 materials. Material ConneXion's international network of specialists provides a global, cross-industry perspective on materials, design, new product development, sustainability, and innovation and helps to connect industries to manufacturers. A leading expert on sustainable materials, Dent's insight has played an important part in creating a new generation of more sustainable products. Since he joined Material ConneXion, Dent has helped hundreds of clients to develop or improve their products through the use of innovative materials.

### **DFA World's Outstanding Chinese Designer 2018**

**Mr. Lyndon Neri and Ms. Rossana Hu / Founding Partners of Neri&Hu Design and Research Office**

*"Our uniquely rich cultural context has given us so much raw material to work with, and forged our sensibilities with a strong heritage foundation"*

After university and several years spent working for prestigious architecture firms in the US, teaching and conducting research, Lyndon Neri & Rossana Hu set up Neri&Hu Design and Research Office, their own inter-disciplinary international architectural design practice, in Shanghai and founded Design Republic, a Shanghai retail concept store offering an outstanding collection of products created by the world's finest furniture designers. Their vision is of modernity balanced by heritage, and their design practice embodies architecture, interior design, product and graphic design, and visual imaging. They approach architecture in a fundamental way, grounding design within the canon of western architecture, exploring forms, styles and tectonics with references to history and typological contexts. They see cultural identity as a natural outcome of who they are and where they come from, and believe that their background will inevitably surface in whatever they do.

### **DFA Design for Asia Awards 2018**

DFA Design for Asia Awards received over 1,000 entries from 18 economies submitting design projects for consideration this year, with the judging panel selecting 187 design projects to be recognised, all of which launched available in Asian markets. A total of 10 Grand Awards, 3 Grand Awards for Culture, Sustainability, and Technology, 10 Grand Awards for Special Mention, and 164 winners from the Category Award are conferred. Among the winners, design projects from Japan and Hong Kong stand at the top of leaderboard, each with 55 winning projects, followed by Mainland China with 40 winning projects.

### **DFA Hong Kong Young Design Talent Award 2018**

Fosters the development emerging design practitioners or graduates of 35 years old or under from Hong Kong. In 2018, 13 out of 16 winners would be awarded up to HK\$ 5 million in total in financial sponsorship for overseas attachments to incubate visions and provide opportunities for cross-cultural exchange projects. The programme seeks to cultivate the next generation of home-grown design to broaden exposure to the global design landscape, and to spearhead Hong Kong Design and Creative industry's future development by taking the essence of their overseas experience back to the city.

**Photo Captions:**

For details of awardee list and photos of event and winning projects, please visit the following download links:

[http://www.hkdc.hk/download/awards/DFA\\_Awards\\_2018.zip](http://www.hkdc.hk/download/awards/DFA_Awards_2018.zip)



Mr. Sebastian Conran receiving the DFA Lifetime Achievement Award on behalf of Sir Terence Conran.



Dr. Andrew Dent receiving his DFA Design Leadership Award.



Mr. Lyndon Neri receiving the DFA World's Outstanding Chinese Designer on behalf of Lyndon Neri and Rossana Hu.



DFA Awards Exhibition at the HKDC Pavilion at the DesignInspire.



DFA Awards Exhibition at the HKDC Pavilion at the DesignInspire.



The DFA Design for Asia Awards 2018 – Grand Award winners and guest presenters.



The DFA Hong Kong Young Design Talent Award winners and guest presenters.



The Awards Publication - Design for Asia: DFA Awards 2018.

### About DFA Awards

[www.dfaawards.com](http://www.dfaawards.com)

In 2003, the Hong Kong Design Centre launched the DFA Awards to underpin the role of designers in society, to celebrate design excellence with impact in Asia and for Asia, as well as to recognise the rising force of emerging designers in Hong Kong through its five-major award programmes - The **DFA Lifetime Achievement Award** signifies the design community's respect for individuals who have made life-long contributions to design profession, education and the society. The **DFA Design Leadership Award** recognises business leaders who create exceptional sustainable business success through strategic and innovative use of design. The **DFA World's Outstanding Chinese Designer** is a major accolade for designers of Chinese origin with significant design achievement and international recognition. The **DFA Design for Asia Awards** covers a wide range of design that embodies Asian aesthetics and culture and influences the design trends in Asia and for Asia. The **DFA Hong Kong Young Design Talent Award** nurtures the development of local emerging designers and provides sponsorship for them to undertake work or further education overseas.

### About Hong Kong Design Centre

[www.hkdesigncentre.org](http://www.hkdesigncentre.org)

Hong Kong Design Centre (HKDC) was founded in 2001 as a strategic partner of the HKSAR Government in establishing Hong Kong as centre of design excellence in Asia. HKDC continues its public mission to promote wider and strategic use of design and design thinking to create business value and improve societal well-being. Our initiatives are anchored by five major work directions: CONNECT, CELEBRATE, NURTURE, ADVANCE and ENGAGE.

HKDC's flagship programmes include Business of Design Week (since 2002) – Asia's leading annual conference and event on Design, Innovation and Brands; DFA Awards (since 2003) – a widely recognised design awards that celebrates outstanding designs with Asian perspectives; Design Incubation Programme (since 2012) and Fashion Incubation Programme (since 2016) – 2-year incubation programmes to nurture future design and fashion entrepreneurs; FASHION ASIA HONGKONG (since 2016) – a fashion initiative combining conversations, interactions and cultural exchanges to energise the city's image, and position it as an Asian hub for fashion trade and business development; Knowledge of Design Week (since 2006) – an annual thematic design knowledge sharing platform that explores how design can solve complex challenges of our society.

### Media Contacts:

For media enquires or interview requests, please contact Ogilvy:

Ivan Yiu | [ivan.yiu@ogilvy.com](mailto:ivan.yiu@ogilvy.com) | +852 2884 8550

Hong Kong Design Centre:

Eva Ip | [eva.ip@hkdesigncentre.org](mailto:eva.ip@hkdesigncentre.org) | +852 3793 8450