

Philippe Starck

b.1949

Philippe Patrick Starck (born 18 January 1949) is a well-known French designer and probably the best known designer in the New Design style. His designs range from spectacular interior designs to mass produced consumer goods such as toothbrushes, chairs, and even houses.



Starck was educated in Paris at École Nissim de Camondo and in 1968, he founded his first design firm, which specialized in inflatable objects. In 1969, he became art director of his firm along with Pierre Cardin.

Starck's career started to climb in earnest in 1982 when he designed the interior for the private apartments of then French President François Mitterrand. After this date, more and more works appeared on his CV.

Starck has worked independently as an interior designer and as a product designer since 1975. Most notably, in 2002, he created a number of relatively inexpensive product designs for the large American retailer Target Stores.

His most recent notable designs include an optical mouse for Microsoft, yachts, and even new packaging for a beer company. He has been commissioned to design the Virgin Galactic "spaceport" in New Mexico.

Unlike most other New Design artists, Starck's work does not concentrate on the creation of provocative and expensive single pieces. Instead, his product designs are of usable household items which Starck himself helps to market for mass production. His products are often stylized, streamlined and organic in their look and are also constructed using unusual combinations of materials (such as glass and stone, plastic and aluminum, plush fabric and chrome, etc.). Two of these designs include stylized toothbrushes (1989) and a sleek juicer dubbed the *Juicy Salif* created for Alessi in 1990. The *Juicy Salif*, in fact, has since become an affordable and popular cult item. A notable and world famous interior design job performed by Starck was for the *Café Costes* in Paris 1984. He has also been involved in the relaunch of the World War II-era Navy Chair in the U.S., designing a classic furniture collection around it.

In 1988 Starck was commissioned by famed nightclub impresario Ian Schrager, former co-owner of Studio 54, to refit the Royalton Hotel on New York's East 44th Street. It was a design moment that has since changed the hotel industry; boutique hotels, where design is tantamount, became the industry buzz. The partnership continued in New York at the Paramount, and then spread to LA with the Mondrian, Miami with the Delano, London with both St. Martins Lane and the Sanderson, San Francisco and the Clift, and finally back to New York with the Hudson Hotel. The look and feel has been widely copied.

Starck lives in four different cities: Paris for public relations; New York, where he does most of his technical work; Burano (Italy), where he also works; and London. He has two children from three marriages.

