

# surface <sup>asia</sup>

DESIGN / FASHION / ARCHITECTURE / ART / CULTURE

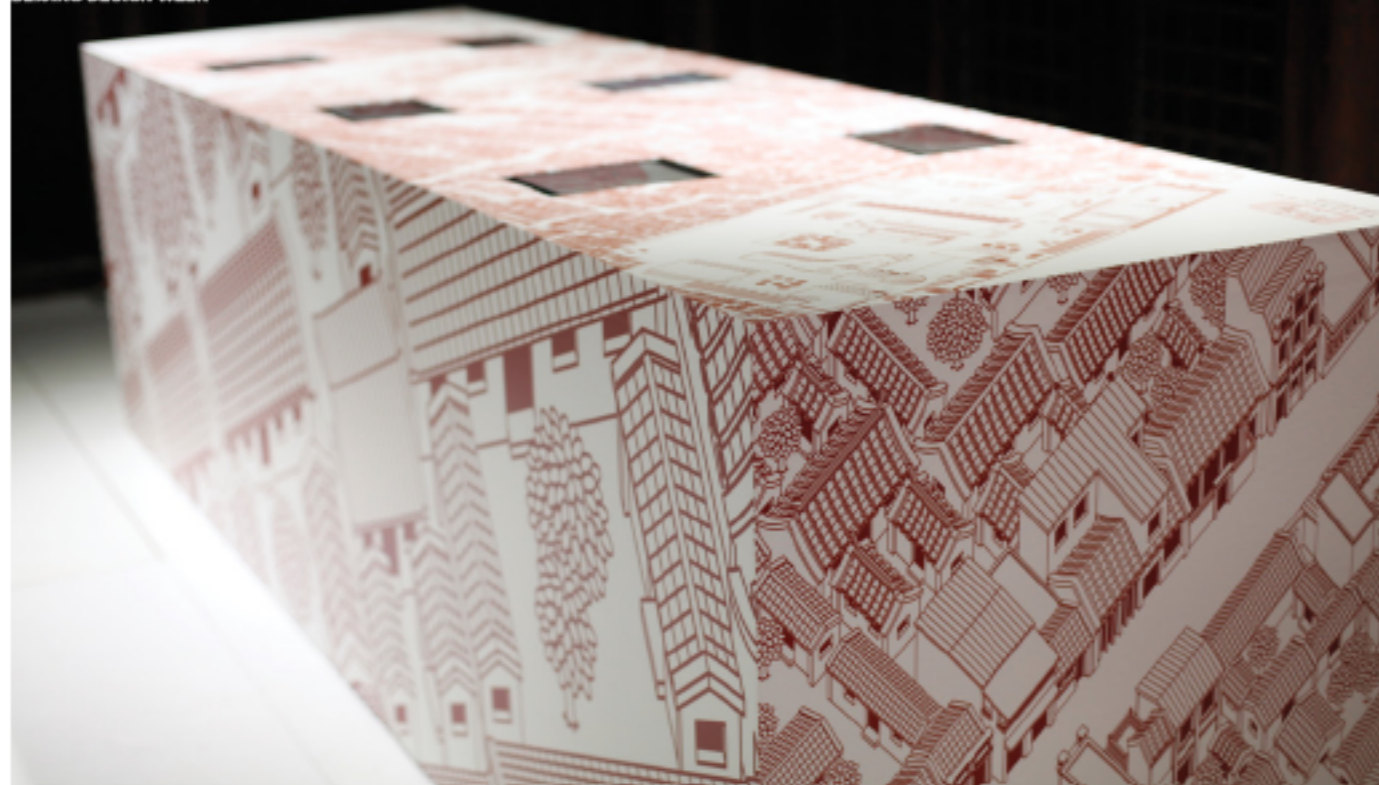
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A portrait of Thakoon Panichgul, a man with short dark hair and a slight beard, wearing a dark t-shirt. He is looking slightly to the right of the camera with a neutral expression. His arms are crossed.

## RISING STAR

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*Thakoon Panichgul and  
Thailand's eternal sense of style*



# VARIETY FAIR

FROM URBAN INFORMATION DESIGN AND SECOND-LIFE SHOES TO HEAVENLY INSTALLATIONS, BEIJING EMBRACES EVERY ASPECT OF DESIGN WITHOUT FEAR OF THE EXPERIMENTAL.

WORDS ALICE DAVIS

Beijing Design Week returned in September, bringing a host of forums, exhibitions and workshops to the Chinese capital. "From the vernacular vestiges of its imperial heart to the hazardous experiments on the 'urban' fringes, design plays out in Beijing as the protagonist in a kaleidoscopic plot of multifaceted 'social turns,'" says the festival's creative director Beatrice Leanza. The event partnered Amsterdam in its guest city program. Let *Surface Asia* bring you on a guided tour, introducing the highlights of the three main hubs of the event. [bjdw.org](http://bjdw.org)

## DASHILAR DELIGHTS

[dashilar.org](http://dashilar.org)

### Dashilar VI Project by Kenya Hara

Beijing's ancient district of Dazhalan (more commonly referred to as Dashilar) is the cultural and historic focal point of the Chinese

capital, and central to BJDW's activities. The area has been reimagined by Muji's Kenya Hara, whose Dashilar VI Project maps out web of a 1.5-kilometer area of hutong-filled alleyways in 3D, bringing to life the physical context and giving the user a vivid impression of the visual life of the district. The paper map is an incredibly intricate graphic depiction of Dashilar, where every shop, house, courtyard and gallery is given dimension beyond that which a typical map can offer. For Hara, this exercise in urban information design works

because of the low-rise nature of Dashilar's architecture. The maps are also available for smartphones and tablets, as interactive software that gives visitors a holistic understanding and appreciation of the area as it guides them, directing them to Design Week hot spots. The map is complex but incredibly human, its design depicts every type of architecture as it exists, and includes details as small as the tiles on the hutong roofs and the trees in the courtyards. Never mind getting lost in Dashilar, you can get lost in Hara's fascinating map. [wdc.co.jp](http://wdc.co.jp)



## YIFU

by Studio Henny van Nistelrooy

This year, Beijing's partner city was Amsterdam. Beijing-based Dutch designer Henny van Nistelrooy was present at the Cao Changdi Art Village, bringing his take on the industrial manufacturing processes to the Design Week. Van Nistelrooy's design studio created a furniture series called YIFU for Chinese furniture brand ACF: Home. The word *yifu* translates from Mandarin as "clothing" and the chair and sofa are inspired by Asian garments like the Korean *hanbok* and the Chinese *hanfu*, and draw on the distinctive silhouette of these traditional gowns. [studiohvn.com](http://studiohvn.com)



## Instant Heaven by Katrin Reinfurt, MPMP

The Instant Heaven installation was a change of gear, quite different in approach and aesthetic. MPMP wanted to present new works inspired by the concept of "silent air." Air is taken to represent sleep, a place where time and space have no meaning. Fashion designer and artist Katrin Reinfurt seems to revel in the esoteric and the utopian, yet her ideas are always grounded by their connection to the elements. [mpmp.me](http://mpmp.me)

(THIS PAGE, FROM TOP) The Yifu sofa by Studio Henny van Nistelrooy; MPMP's Instant Heaven installation. (OPPOSITE, FROM TOP) A view of the stage and seating area; Performers at the OCO Pavilion stage, by Liu Wei.