

**WOMOS' TABLE, 1967**

DESIGNED FOR TECTO, WITH
DISTINCTIVE ENLAVED METAL LEGS.
FURTHER ITERATIONS FOLLOWED.

'CATRAY SOLID' CHAIR, 2011

DEVELOPED WITH
POLTRONA FRANZ FOR
CATRAY PACIFIC
LOUNGES AT HONG
KONG INTERNATIONAL
AIRPORT.

INSIDE STORY

**CRIFT + MANUFACTURE AT THE ARAM
GALLERY SHOWCASES FOSTER + PARTNERS'
INDUSTRIAL DESIGN PAST AND PRESENT**

HARRISMAN' TABLE, 2006

LAUNCHED BY CICO AT 1906,
WAS'S SALONE DEL MOBILE.

FOSTER 130' ARMCHAIR, 1961

WITH A SLIM BE BACK AND
FABRIC AND LEATHER UPHOLSTERY,
FOR WALTER KNOLL.

SEE THE LIGHTS

THE SHOW ALSO FEATURES THE PRACTICE'S
LIGHTING PROJECTS FOR LUMINA,
INCLUDING THE TWO NEW LAUNCHES.

'EYE' LAMP, 2006

A CORE OF LIGHT WITHIN A GLASS
TUBE EMITS A CANDLE-LIKE GLOW.

'TOD' LAMP, 2006

AN ELEGANT, BARELY THERE, LTD
LAMP IS DESK AND FLOOR VERSION.

'TOD' LAMP, 2006

THE NEW, SHIMMIE RAY
HIGH-TECH DESIGN
PROJECTS CLARE FREE
ILLUMINATION.

cone of light and a glow similar to a candle. A glass tube houses a COB (chip on board) LED that reflects light up into the cylinder, controlled by a free-moving wheel at the bottom of the lamp that serves as a dimmer.

Mike Holland, head of Foster + Partners' Industrial Design group, notes that the genesis of these two projects illustrates the different ways in which the department works. The 'Eye' lamp started as an internal development, and was then taken to Zanussi, while 'Eye' was developed as an architectural project and evolved as the building evolved before becoming a product for retail. 'There are probably four different ways that products come into being,' says Holland. 'Whether it's from an architectural project, whether we develop it internally, whether someone approaches us, or we just "entrepreneur" something, every product has its own sort of process and there are no rules.'

The exhibition at The Aram Gallery will showcase this dynamic approach and include other Foster + Partners designs such as the 'Nomos' table for Tecto and the 'Arc' table for Molteni & C, as well as furniture for Poltrona Frau and Walter Knoll. It will also include prototypes and photographs of designs in development. 'Industrial design has been there from the start of the practice,' says Dave Nelson, overall head of design



THE 'TOD' HANGING LAMP WITH ITS
THINLY FLOATING GOGS, AND
THE GLASS-ENCASED 'EYE' LAMP,
BOTH LED, OFF REFLECTED LIGHT.

at Foster + Partners. 'The way we design a building's components comes from the building design,' Nelson, who has been with the practice since the 1970s, has witnessed the development of the Industrial Design department and its involvement in projects of every scale.

'While Foster + Partners is mainly known for its architecture, the industrial designs produced by the practice have been impressive; it maintains creativity and rigour in all its work,' says Zeyv Aram, co-founder and director of The Aram Gallery and a long-term friend of Lord Foster.

Part of the Industrial Design studio's success is due to the fact that it has a solid structure backing it, and a wealth of experience it can draw from, with teams feeding each other throughout projects. But it's also rooted in a freedom and lack of precise aesthetic rules. 'Looking in there, there must be a kind of aesthetic,' concedes Nelson. 'It's not minimal but it's kind of reduced, doing things so everything counts. Whether it's a product or it's a building, everything is there for a reason and most makes sense. I suppose that might be a guiding force for us.' ★

Crift + Manufacture: Industrial Design by Foster + Partners, 12 May - 1 July, The Aram Gallery, no. Drury Lane, London WC2; aramgallery.org.