

Lella Vignelli

Lella Vignelli was born in Udine, Italy. She received a degree from the School of Architecture, University of Venice, and became a registered architect in Milan in 1962. In 1958, she received a tuition fellowship as a special student at the School of Architecture, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge.

In 1959, Ms. Vignelli joined Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, Chicago, as junior designer in the interiors department. The following year, with Massimo Vignelli, she established the Vignelli Office of Design and Architecture in Milan. In 1965, she became head of the interiors department for Unimark International Corporation in Milan and in New York (1966).

In 1971, the Vignellis established Vignelli Associates, where Lella Vignelli was initially Executive Vice President, and is now Chief Executive Officer. Seven years later, they formed Vignelli Designs, a company dedicated to product and furniture design, of which she is President.

Ms. Vignelli's work is widely featured in design publications in the United States and abroad. Examples of her work have been included in the permanent collections of numerous museums, including the Museum of Modern Art, the Cooper-Hewitt Museum, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the Musée des Arts Décoratifs in Montreal, and Die Neue Sammlung in Munich. The Vignellis' work has been the subject of two feature-length television programs that have been televised worldwide.

A monographic exhibition of the Vignellis' work toured Europe between 1989 and 1993, and was featured in St. Petersburg, Moscow, Helsinki, London, Budapest, Barcelona, Copenhagen, Munich, Prague and Paris.

Lella Vignelli is a frequent speaker and juror for national and international design organizations. She is a member of the Industrial Designers Society of America (IDSA), the American Institute of Graphic Arts (AIGA), the International Furnishings and Designer Association (IFDA), and the Decorators Club of New York.

Ms. Vignelli has been the recipient of many awards including:

1982, Honorary Doctorates from the Parsons School of Design, New York.

1994, Corcoran School of Art, Washington D.C.

1973, American Institute of Architects (AIA) Industrial Arts Medal.

1983, AIGA Gold Medal.

1988, Interior Design Hall of Fame.

1991, National Arts Club Gold Medal for Design.

1992, Interior Product Designers Fellowship of Excellence.

1995, Brooklyn Museum Design Award for Lifetime Achievement.

2003, the National Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Museum of Design at Cooper-Hewitt, New York.

2004, the Visionary Award from the Museum of Art and Design, New York.

2005, Architecture Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, NY.