

**DESIGN NOW!**

By Charlotte & Peter Fiell (Taschen) £24.99

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There are not many aspects of design that have not already been documented by prolific design authors Charlotte and Peter Fiell in their extensive back catalogue of titles for publishing house Taschen. Previous studies have focused on 21st-century design, Scandinavian design, graphic design and lighting among many other spheres and are consistent in tackling each subject with a real emphasis upon illustration – acknowledging that, for all the talking and theorising, design is often primarily a visual thing.

Their latest work is an attempt to deliver a snapshot of the design world in the here and now, taking in contemporary design in all its guises 'from eco-design to design-art'.

The 90 designers featured in *Design Now!* include quite a few familiar names that have appeared in *Designer* in recent issues (including Jean-Marie Massaud, Matali Crasset, Ora-Ito, Seymour Powell, Ross Lovegrove and Fernando & Humberto Campana) as well as a few others who will be figuring on these pages in the near future, such as Sam Hecht of design studio Industrial Facility.

The sum of the parts makes it feel like many more than 90 designers, however, with a comprehensive collection of design stories beautifully laid out.

What's perhaps most striking about this chunky tri-language volume is the sheer variety of design talent included. From Marc Newson's Samsonite luggage designs to the aircraft output from the Toulouse-based Airbus Design Team, each of the mini-profiles contains a statement from the designer(s), a potted designer/company history and a generous collection of photographs – often backed up with sketches, drawings or renderings.

As ever with a design compendium of this nature, there are countless additional designers who could and arguably should also have been included. However, that subjective observation should not be allowed to detract too heavily from what in all other respects can be considered an important point of reference for anyone studying or working in design.



Top left: A rendering of the Seagen twin-rotor tidal turbine by Marine Current Turbines

Top right: The entirely electric-powered Mega City car by NICE (No Internal Combustion Engine) Car Company

Below: Magnetic Resonance Imaging healthcare environment by Philips Design

