

Gianni Arduini *Industrial Designer*

Immediately after completing his studies in industrial design, Arduini started working with Marco Zanuso and Richard Sapper. After this, he set up as a freelance consultant, working with Lorenzo Bonfanti and Gianfranco Salvemini, developing his first Design for a Wider Usership projects with the latter.

He subsequently expanded his scope, working closely with marketing experts and drawing up feasibility studies aimed at weighing up the possibility and validity of industrial investments for products with a high degree of design content and intended as Design for a Wider Usership products.

Nevertheless, his main field of work still remains that of devising and designing consumer durables, many of which involve the application of complex technology, including an interest in developing and experimenting with systems. The range of products he has designed includes coffee machines, machine tools, kitchenware, special packaging, office furniture, hi-fi accessories, air conditioners and purifiers, automatic vending machines, biomedical, medical and dental instruments, auxiliaries for disabled people, anti-theft devices for cars, toys, civil and industrial telephone systems, car radios, computers and sanitary fittings, many of which he devised as products based on the principles of Design for a Wider Usership.

Arduini takes a special interest in the application of design to disability and in Design for a Wider Usership and is a founder member of the Dublin-based EIDD, European Institute for Design and Disability, and a founder member of its Italian national network, the IIDD, Italian Institute for Design and Disability, which he has represented in the National Committee of ADI, the Italian Association for Industrial Design, where he is currently a member of the Committee of Arbiters.

With this intense interest in the field of Design for a Wider Usership, Arduini has lectured at Milan Polytechnic, the Istituto Europeo di Design and other design-oriented highschoools.

He contributes to a variety of magazines, has co-ordinated and addressed several international conferences and served as a member of international design award juries.

Arduini has received professional acknowledgement as a winner of the XIII edition of the Compasso d'Oro Award in 1984 and short-listing in five other editions. He has also been short-listed at the SMAU Industrial Design Award, the BIO in Ljubljana and the 5 Stelle Award in Genoa.

Paola Bucciarelli *Architect*

Paola Bucciarelli is a researcher in the field of accessible design, paying special attention to the problems of orientation and mobility encountered by the blind and to questions of representation for the visually impaired.

A specialist in this field at the Milan Polytechnic Faculty of Architecture, she conducts research into the multiple aspects of sensorial disabilities and co-ordinates the work done by undergraduates during their courses and when preparing their theses. She takes a special interest in the cultural and design developments to be found at European and International levels.

Hers was the idea (together with Silvia Cagnoni) and the creation (together with the maestro Aurelio Sartorio) of seven tactile maps of Milan City for the Milan Institute of the Blind.

Sophie Corbetta Architect

Sophie Corbetta started her career with the design for the “pre-retirement” house, which she drew up for her graduation thesis and built in prototype form in the 1996 edition of the Abilexpo trade fair.

Her skills as a perspicacious, creative architect are enriched by her direct experience of what it means to be a wheelchair user who comes into everyday contact with the question of access to the places she visits.

On behalf of Milan Polytechnic, she has co-ordinated a Masters course dedicated to “Designing without Handicaps and for a Wider Usership” and has also taken part in several European accessibility projects, again with Milan Polytechnic.

Sophie Corbetta has published articles in several specialised magazines, dealing in particular with the topic of housing. She works as a freelance, managing projects both for private clients - modification projects - and for associations.

Giovanni Del Zanna Architect

Giovanni Del Zanna specialises in design (eliminating barriers, modifying housing, drawing up projects for communities and experimental structures) and in promoting Design for a Wider Usership by taking part in courses and conferences, both in Italy and abroad.

He has contributed to seminars at Milan Polytechnic, the Genoa University Faculty of Architecture and the University of Brescia, and publishes a great deal, having contributed articles to various magazines and written several books, including *Le 4 Normative a confronto* (Four standards compared), *Progettare Spazi Accessibili* (Designing Accessible Spaces), *Cultura e Progetto dell'Accessibilità* (Accessibility: Culture and Design) for Rima Editrice and *Uomo Disabilità Ambiente* (Man, Disability, Environment) for Abitare Segesta.

During the 1995 edition of the Abilexpo trade fair, he curated the construction of the Logical House together with Gianni Arduini, with whom he has worked on other projects in the field of Design for a Wider Usership. Del Zanna also works with various Associations, on both accessibility designs and promotion and development projects. He has co-tutored graduation theses dealing with accessibility at the Milan Polytechnic Faculty of Architecture and the Brescia University Faculty of Engineering.

A consultant with the Lombardy Paraplegics Association since 1991, founder member of the IIDDD, Del Zanna is a member of the Building Committee of the town of Limbiate, near Milan, where he has been providing expertise on the elimination of architectural barriers since 1996.

Silvia Volpi Architect

After graduating in architecture with a thesis in Design for a Wider Usership, Silvia Volpi immediately started working with the HBgroup, assisting Giovanni Del Zanna in projects to modify private housing units and developing designs for housing for the disabled, as well as working on training courses and writing articles.



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