



KAYIWA

Lincoln Kayiwa has launched new design products this spring, including the DOM-I-NO candle holder.

Design beyond borders

Lincoln Kayiwa's highly functional yet aesthetic designs are showcased in the new exhibition.

ANNIKA RAUTAKOURA
HELSINKI TIMES

LINCOLN KAYIWA, a Uganda-born and Helsinki-based designer, launched a series of new products this May to complement his line of highly functional, yet also aesthetic designs.

Kayiwa is a 2007 Masters graduate of Aalto University School of Art and Design, and his first headlining exhibition will be featured at the Caisa Cultural Centre this August.

Since his graduation, Kayiwa has launched his eponymous design company, and worked with different materials. He has focused on wood, ceramics and metal so far. "The next phase will be plastic," he says.

This spring Kayiwa established three fresh and innovative design products: the JOKI bench and DOM-I-NO and FAITH candle holders.

The DOM-I-NO piece is an interesting design that can both stand on its own and work well in formations. The shape is a personal one for Kayiwa: "When I was growing up I liked everything about dominos."

In the middle lies an inconspicuous groove, which is also a functional part of the design. "When people light candles, for a millisecond they think where to put the match, so the groove provides a nice place for it. Even without the candle, the piece looks interesting," Kayiwa adds.

Kayiwa designed JOKI when on paternity leave;

when he learned how to multitask.

Originally the bench was intended to be of colourful wood, but problems with the supplier necessitated a switch to birch plywood. "When in a tight situation, you need to work around it. I have learned that nothing is impossible," Kayiwa says.

The playful designs are as multilayered as the wooden surface on JOKI. "I like to have this balance between functional and fun. I'm trying to make classics – products that are not affected by time, no seasonal products."

The plastic phase will include the biodegradable Rosé picnic glass in late 2013. Next spring, Kayiwa will launch the much sought-after Dino clothes rack.

Kayiwa's future plans include a process of internationalisation, with fairs in spring 2014 in strategically chosen locations as important catalysts. The International Contemporary Furniture Fair in New York is a must, along with Cape Town World Design Capital. A fair on each continent is on the agenda for the designer.

"You get first-hand feedback on what you should and shouldn't do, and what to do better," Kayiwa says of participating in the fairs and the future. "I hope that for the 5-10 years the company grows organically. I want it to be a respectable brand. The name should sell itself."

The Finland Meets Uganda exhibition will showcase the prototypes and samples by Kayiwa. Despite its name, Kayiwa advocates design for universal tastes. "Design is without borders."

Finland Meets Uganda Exhibition
Caisa Cultural Centre
Mikonkatu 17 C
Vuorikatu 14
Exhibition runs through
6 August to 11 October.
www.kayiwa.fi

The JOKI bench allows various sitting positions for adults and children.



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My Neighbourhood

HELSINKI TIMES

In this fortnightly series, Helsinki Times has a chat with different people about the places they live in. Explore different areas of Helsinki and its surroundings with a local guide!

History abounds in Kruununhaka

MILY VAZQUEZ-HARKIVI is a 32-year-old Master of Social Sciences from Monterrey, Mexico.

1. Where do you live?

I live in Kruununhaka, in central Helsinki.

2. How long have you lived there?

Almost 3 years.

3. What kind of neighbourhood is it?

It is a city neighbourhood. It is right in the heart of Helsinki and it is home to many official buildings, museums and associations (such as the Finnish Literature Society in Hallituskatu).

4. What do you like about your neighbourhood?

I love the peaceful environment, its little parks, its services (stores, restaurants and cafes) and the fact that many university buildings are very close. In addition, the public transportation connections are very good.

5. What is special about your neighbourhood?

Kruununhaka was founded when the city of Helsinki moved from its earlier location in the 17th century. Its architecture is beautiful and most of the buildings are old, but well kept.



6. Please recommend one shop or service in your neighbourhood that you would like to promote.

The Burgher's House museum in Kristianinkatu is interesting and the Kolme Kruunua restaurant is good, as well as Savu restaurant in Tervasaari.

7. Other things you would like HT readers to know about your neighbourhood.

Some of my friends who visit Kruununhaka say that they feel they are visiting a different town or country because it is so special. There are for example many antique, book, flower and gift stores. Another thing about Kruununhaka is that many of its residents are very polite and easygoing, keeping up the good spirit of a neighbourhood that traditionally has been home of state and city officials.



Snellmaninkatu in Kruununhaka is typical of the quiet, leafy avenues around the area.

Did you know?

- Kruununhaka (Swedish: Kronohagen) is a neighbourhood of Helsinki. It is home to the Presidential Palace, City Hall, Bank of Finland, student house and the Knight house. At the Senate Square (Senaatintori) is the city's Cathedral and the Helsinki University.
- The area was first built on under the rule of King Gustav Vasa of Sweden.
- The name Kruununhaka comes from a harbour garden where the king's horses were kept.
- It's inhabited by 6,763 people (2008). Population density is 11,860/km².
- The area is home to Finnish public figures such as Kirka Babbitz (singer), Magnus Lindberg (composer and pianist) and Bror-Erik Wallenius (sports commentator), among others.
- Many buildings of the University of Helsinki are also situated in Kruununhaka.
- Kruununhaka became the area next to the harbour and the centre, when Helsinki was moved from the earlier location in the mid-1660s.