

Kenneth Grange

Making Britain Modern

20 July - 30 October



Kenneth Grange is Britain's leading product designer, his prolific career spans over 50 years and he is responsible for designing some of the most iconic and familiar products and appliances that shape our daily lives.

Kodak cameras, the silhouette for the **Intercity 125 train**, **Kenwood food mixers**, **Parker pens**, and the re-design of the **London Taxi Cab** are just some of his well-known designs. This exhibition is Kenneth Grange's first UK retrospective and it will celebrate his work, his design journey and the role he has played in making Britain modern.



During the 1960s and 70s Grange designed a considerable number of domestic products. The Kenwood Chef was a revelation in home baking and it became a standard aesthetic for food mixers. Razors for Wilkinson Sword, cigarette lighters for Ronson, Irons for Morphy Richards, Pens for Parker, each of his designs supported new materials and advances in technology. This was a time when Britain led the way with its strong manufacturing base and renewed vigour for design, a time for Britain to embrace the future. In 1972 Grange, together with Alan Fletcher, Theo Crosby, Colin Forbes and Mervyn Kurlansky established **Pentagram**, a world renowned multi-disciplinary design consultancy. In 1968 Grange designed the iconic exterior and interior layout for the High Speed Intercity 125 train for British Rail. Unveiled in 1976, the Intercity's distinctive and futuristic aerodynamic cone nose caught the mood of the time and set the standard for high-speed train design still referenced today.



Born in 1929 Grange attended Willesden School of Art, London, his National Service was spent as a technical illustrator for the Royal Engineers. In 1951 whilst working as an architect's assistant Grange contributed to the Sports and Home pavilions for the Festival of Britain. In 1958 Grange designed the interiors for the Kodak Pavilion at the Brussels World Fair and so began the start of a successful partnership which would lead to Grange designing his first camera for Kodak the 44A in 1959. Grange also developed the Kodak instamatic camera in 1968, followed by the Kodak Pocket Instamatic in 1972, the start of a new generation of portable, inexpensive cameras.



Influenced by the form and function of Scandinavian, German and Italian design, Grange's elegant and functional designs embraced a contemporary aesthetic, combining a unique style and appreciation of domestic values, creating products that were not only a commercial success but also a joy to use.



More recently, in the 1990s, Grange has produced distinctive designs that have become part of our landscape, from the re-design of the London black cab, the Taxi TX1 in 1998, to the Adshel bus shelters of 1993 and the Rural Post box for Royal Mail in 1998, these familiar designs shape our streetscape and continue Grange's work in street design that started with his parking meter for Venner in 1958. Today Grange continues to work with British companies including Anglepoise, furniture designer Hitch Mylius and fashion designer Margaret Howell. Still at the centre of the design community, he was made a Royal Designer for Industry in 1969, awarded a CBE in 1984, has an impressive five honorary doctorates and continues to

teach and offer his support and experience to the next generation of designers at the Royal College of Art.

The exhibition will be designed by James Irvine and Jasper Morrison with graphics by Graphic Thought Facility.

Ends

DESIGN MUSEUM, SHAD THAMES, LONDON SE1 2YD

OPENING: 10.00 -17.45 daily. Last admission: 17.15

Admissions: £10.00 Adults, £9.00 Concessions, £6.00 Students under 12s Free.

PUBLIC INFORMATION T: 020 7940 8790 W: designmuseum.org

Image credits:

Page 1: Adshel bench 1972, Morphy Richards Iron 1968, Clock 1985, Kodak camera 1970, Page 2: Kenwood mini mixer 1972, Reuters Monitor 1985, Rural postbox 1996

1. Media View 19 July 11am – 1pm

Kenneth Grange will be available for interview at the Media View. Interviews should be requested in advance.

2. Exhibition Merchandise

The Design Museum shop will stock a selection of exclusive exhibition merchandise including a new Angelpoise Lamp Type 1228 with daffodil yellow shade designed by Kenneth Grange.

3. The book 'Kenneth Grange: Making Britain Modern' will be released to coincide with the exhibition. Published by Black Dog publishing, priced £19.95, available from the Design Museum Shop. Review copies via Charlotte Jansen: press@blackdogonline.com

4. Exhibition design by James Irvine and Jasper Morrison

5. Exhibition graphics by Graphic Thought Facility.

6. Talks & Events

Exhibition related talks and events to be announced shortly.

7. Broadcast Partner – Crane.TV

Crane.tv is the online video-magazine for contemporary culture. We cover the most engaging stories around the globe and across our five video channels: art, design, fashion, lifestyle and travel. Crane.tv features a balanced mix of the established and the emerging, giving an in-depth and thoughtful look into the world's leading thinkers and creatives.

8. Blueprint Cafe Kenneth Grange set menu offer

As part of the Making Britain Modern exhibition Blueprint Cafe has joined with the Design Museum to offer a 2 course set lunch, a glass of wine & entry to the museum for £20.00 per person.

Booking - 020 7378 7031



9. Win the Ultimate Kenneth Grange Giveaway

The Design Museum has teamed up with Anglepoise, Blueprint Café, Design Museum Shop, Kenwood, Guoman Hotels' The Tower and Polaroid Eyewear, to offer the Great (British) Grange Giveaway. For full details of giveaway and to enter the competition, sign up to receive email updates at: designmuseum.org/signup/competition

Press enquires, image and interview requests:

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