

## Milano Design Week 2019

### UNION makes its debut at Fuorisalone with the installation

#### One Design – One Handle

**Torneria Tortona – 32, via Tortona - Milano**

**From Tuesday 9th to Sunday 14th April 2019**

**Press preview: Monday 8th April – from 3 to 6 p.m.**

UNION CORPORATION, leading Japanese company in the door handle industry founded in Osaka in 1958, enters the world of international architecture making its debut at Milan Design Week with the evocative installation "One Design - One Handle".

Designed by the architect Tsuyoshi Tane, the exhibition offers an impressive journey over more than 60 years of the company's history, combining the most ancient Japanese techniques for the production of artisanal handles with cutting-edge design projects.

On display at Tortona District - real beating heart of Milan Design Week - within a space of 460m<sup>2</sup>, Tsuyoshi Tane's installation shows the extremely rich collection of resources and materials of the company with the aim of highlighting every single phase of the handles production. Analysing not only the materials and techniques used, but also the history and the most ancient manufacturing traditions that make every single piece designed by UNION exclusive, Tane wants to convey the true spirit that still guides the company today: a continuous inspiration to the origins combined with a dynamic projection to the constantly evolving reality that characterizes the current world of architecture and design.

To do so, the architect decided to employ the technique of sand mold casting, one of the most ancient fusion processes known to mankind, focusing on its application in the creation of a single handle for each mold. A practice that UNION still applies in test productions and in the production of small batches of handles.

The company, which supplies over 80% of the premium architectural market in Japan, aims to promote the iconic mix of craftsmanship and design which characterises its broad portfolio of unique handles at an international level.

Until now, the popularity of UNION, Japanese leader in the sector, has been primarily limited to the Land of the Rising Sun but, in the years to come, the company is committed to crossing borders and facing new challenges between cultures and global spaces.

Hence the decision to participate to the Milan Design Week, an ideal showcase and a great opportunity to show international architects and designers the incredible know-how developed by UNION in handle design.

[www.artunion.co.jp](http://www.artunion.co.jp)

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**UNION One Design - One Handle**

**Date:** April 9, 2019 (Tues) to April 14 (Sun), 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

**Venue:** Via Tortona 32, Milan

**Press Preview:** April 8, 2019 (Mon), 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

**Reception Party:** April 8, 2019 (Mon), 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

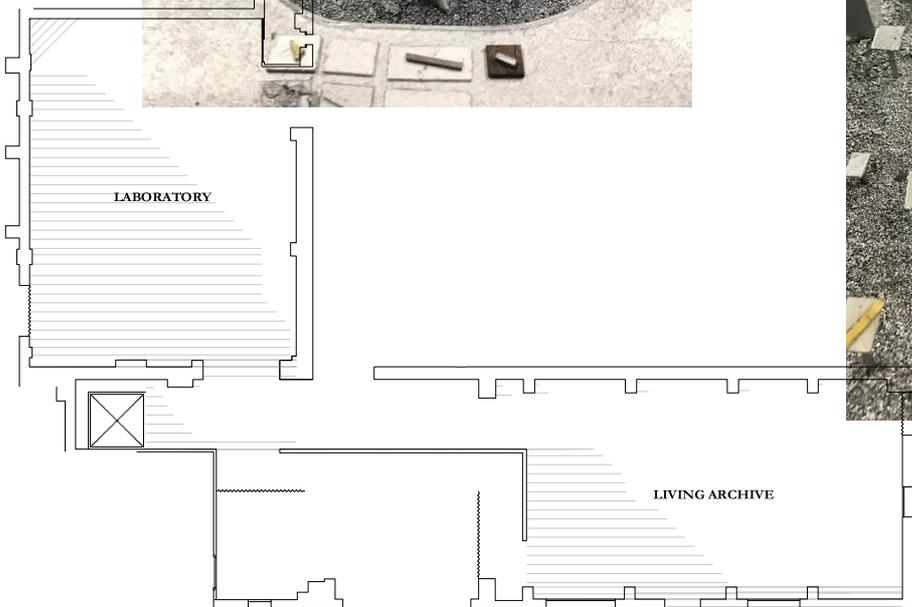
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Demonstration and Process of Sand Cast Molding



Exhibition of the varied materials and resources used to form handles



## [About UNION]

UNION was born in Osaka immediately after the Second World War as a small hardware store and began, from 1958 on, to make a name for itself as a door handles, lever handles and knobs manufacturer. Later on, with the construction boom of the 60s, the company started collaborating with renowned architects and designers in the production of handcrafted handles for a wide variety of buildings and spaces.

Many of the handles produced by UNION were originally custom-designed by architects as one-off pieces for specific projects and, subsequently, the drawings were also used for the realization of other architectural works.

This is the case, for example, of the handle designed by Togo Murano for the entrance to the Printemps cafe in Shinsaibashi (Osaka) or Shinixhi Okada custom-made handles installed at the Japanese Supreme Court upon its completion in 1974.

UNION produces more than 3,000 different types of handles in a wide range of materials - from aluminum to stainless steel, from iron and brass to natural wood, up to glass, ceramic and leather - experiencing a rich variety of techniques, shapes and dimensions.

A rich and extensive portfolio that demonstrates the company's ability to create original and one of a kind products, maintaining the same artisanal spirit both in individual items and in massive orders.

Strengthened by an expertise gained in over 60 years of activity, today UNION is the Japanese leader in the sector and covers more than 80% of the country's high-end domestic market.

The company also received important international awards for its exclusive design and for the quality of its products that have been used in the construction of prestigious buildings and structures around the world, including One World Trade Center in New York.

## [Venue Composition / Installation]



Tsuyoshi Tane

Tsuyoshi Tane

The architect Tsuyoshi Tane was born in Tokyo in 1979. He is currently based in Paris, France, and heads the firm Atelier Tsuyoshi Tane Architects.

His major works include the Estonian National Museum (2016), the New National Museum - Kofun Stadium (proposal) (2012), and LIGHT is TIME (2014), among other internationally recognized projects.

He has received numerous awards, including Nouveaux Albums des Jeunes Architectes by the French Ministry of Culture (2008), the 67th Minister of Education Award for Fine Arts - New Face Award, and Architect of the Year, 2019. In 2012, he taught at Columbia University's GSAPP. <http://at-ta.fr>

Foto: Yoshiaki Tsutsui

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