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Studio Levien Celebrates its 10th Anniversary in December

Studio Levien is run by Robin Levien RDI and his partner Patricia Stainton, it has received international acclaim and accolades since its inception in 1999. Studio Levien is acknowledged as one of the most influential design studios in the UK and as experts in industrial ceramics, most widely recognised for its work creating understated bathroom designs for Ideal Standard and contemporary tableware for brands such as Villeroy & Boch, Guzzini, Costa Verde and Lenox.

Studio Levien reaches its 10th year in December; however, Levien himself has enjoyed a buoyant career, which spans over three decades. He began his passionate and relentless obsession with designing useable and everyday domestic products at Queensberry Hunt in 1978, where his successes included the much revered Trend tableware for Rosenthal Thomas. He later became a senior partner before the partnership amicably split and Levien went on to set up his own design studio in partnership with his wife, designer Patricia Stainton.

The underpinning ethos at Studio Levien is to create products that are functional, affordable and beautiful, products that can be enjoyed by everyone, everyday – ultimately finding the right solutions to make people's lives better. The team of seven operate from their base near Tate Modern on the south bank of the Thames, the open plan and welcoming studio, uses 3D CAD and rapid prototyping technology that is complimented by an onsite workshop, where their designs are developed through 'hands on' model making. A personal and dedicated approach has seen Studio Levien flourish and maintain long-standing relationships with its clients.

Robin Levien utilises his knowledge and experience in the ceramics industry to nurture young design talent. Levien works closely with the Royal College of Art (RCA) and Central St Martins to mentor graduates with one-to-one sessions, studio tours and hosted talks in order to help the next generation succeed.

Levien might not be a household name, as he has always steered away from the limelight, but his designs are. With a dedicated and growing group of admirers, ten years of Studio Levien is a milestone but in many ways it is just the beginning.

Now is the time to pay homage to one of the UK's most influential design studios, led by one of the UK's largely unsung design greats; here are just ten highlights from the past ten years:

- 2009 – Appointed Master of the Faculty of Royal Designers for Industry
- 2009 – Launch of New Cottage tableware for Villeroy and Boch
- 2008 - Launch of Concept bathroom range for Ideal Standard International
- 2007 – Special Commendation Prince Philip Designers Prize
- 2007 – Launch of Hula Hoop tableware for Guzzini
- 2006 – Launch of Isola tableware for Costa Verde
- 2005 – Launch of Create bathroom range for Ideal Standard International
- 2003 – Launch of Home Elements Kitchen & Dining collection for Villeroy & Boch
- 2002 – Garden Design at the first Westonbirt Garden Festival
- 2000 – Member of Council – Royal College of Art

“I think the success of Studio Levien comes down to our unyielding drive to get the indefinable and elusive ‘it’ factor into our designs, to find that extra bit of magic that makes a design classic, a peoples favourite that lasts. As a designer I am always searching for ‘it’, that is what gets me out of bed in the morning,” says Robin Levien.

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Notes to Editors

- Studio Levien has recently launched its new website
- It is estimated that 15% of all UK bathrooms have Studio Levien designs in them.
- The Studio range has sold over 10 million pieces – it is the UK's best selling bathroom range
- Robin Levien received the distinction of Royal Designer for Industry (RDI) from the Royal Society of Arts in 1995
- 2006 Patricia Stainton Garden Design - Field House near Exeter
- 2006 Robin Levien Non-executive Design Director of Ideal Standard International in the UK
- 2006 Robin Levien Honorary Doctorate - Staffordshire University
- 2002 Patricia Stainton Garden Design - Westonbirt Garden Festival

“Although Levien determinedly avoids celebrity, his achievements over 30 years in design are definitely star status.” **Barbara Chandler, Freelance journalist for the Homes & Property section of the London Evening Standard**

“Apart from being an undisputed design talent, Levien is also an astute design champion”
Design Week

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