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TAIWAN ON TOP

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LINES UP AS A FUTURE
DESIGN CAPITAL

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HERMÈS AND SC GLOBAL
MARRY AT THE MARQ
IN SINGAPORE





Number One

DESPITE EXISTING FOR LESS THAN A YEAR, THE SHARP WORK OF ANDREI ZEREBECKY AND LUKASZ KOS'S FOUR O NINE STUDIO IS BEING NOTICED BY THE DESIGN WORLD.

WORDS DAVID LLOYD BUGLAR

Poland-born Lukasz Kos and Canadian Andrei Zerebecky co-founded Four O Nine in 2011, debuting their work that year at the 100% Design Shanghai fair.

Confirming the increasing acclaim they've been garnering in industry circles, the design duo were recently honoured with Perspective magazine's 40 under 40 award. This came on the back of their first line of furniture – the Pleat Series of tables and chairs, the Urban Fabric rugs, and the Eclipse mirror and sideboard.

The name Four O Nine is derived from an old address they once shared – 409 Dovercourt Road, Toronto – which was both a social gathering space and the catalyst for their close-knit partnership and shared outlook. Both are graduates from the University of Toronto's faculty of architecture, landscape and design.

The pair's work explores what Kos and Zerebecky describe as "the boundary between the prosaic and the poetic". For instance, their furniture integrates sharp, clean lines with a focus on comfort and ergonomics. Meanwhile, the Pleat series, consisting of lounge and dining chairs, is inspired by Giorgio Armani's flat-front suit pants – the pleating of the fabric provides the

structure of the garment and, in the same fashion, the form of these sleek but functional chairs. The pair's Zero Waste Table marks their first green product design. Its tempered glass top is supported by one standard sized aluminium sheet that has been folded five times. This build means there are no off-cuts, or waste material.

However, one of their most distinctive products is the Eclipse mirror, which "was inspired by the cultural significance of the moon in many east Asian cultures." The circular wall mounted mirror is back-lit by a concealed light source, and treated with a faded edge. The lighting effect is meant to emulate the spectacle of a solar eclipse and creates a pinhole camera effect on the viewer's reflection. It's yet another encouraging sign that the duo are not just here to make up the numbers. four-o-nine.com