

Alessandro Mendini

After he graduated in architecture in 1959, Alessandro Mendini went to work for the Milan-based design and architecture office Nizzoli Associati. Following a decade of practical experience, he decided to immerse himself in the theoretical side of architecture and design, influenced in part by the revolutionary spirit of the 1960s. From 1970 to 1976, he served as editor of the magazine *Casabella*, which became a mouthpiece for a new generation of socially critical, avant-garde Italian architects and designers. He later edited the architecture and design magazines *Modo* (1977-1981) and *Domus* (1980-1985 and 2010-2011).

Mendini increasingly began present himself as a designer. He became extremely influential thanks to his groundbreaking projects with the Alchimia design group, such as 1981's *// mobile infinito* (Infinite Furniture), in which designers and artists collaborated on experimental furnishings with changeable decorations. From the 1980s, he acted as an advisor for the Alessi company, initiating high-profile collaborative projects that blurred the boundary between architecture and design. He also created designs for the watchmaker Swatch, the electronics company Philips, and numerous design firms. With his younger brother Francesco, he designed colourful buildings in Europe and Asia, of which the Groninger Museum is the most famous. He continued to expand his staggeringly varied oeuvre of imaginative, contrary, humorous and poetic objects until late in his life.