

MUTINA

MUTINA UNVEILS NEW COLLABORATIONS WITH NERI&HU AND THE JOSEF & ANNI ALBERS FOUNDATION

On the occasion of **Milano Design Week 2026**, Mutina presents two new internationally significant collaborations with **Neri&Hu** and **The Josef & Anni Albers Foundation**. These encounters represent true moments of cultural convergence, expanding the brand's language and reaffirming its role within the contemporary design landscape.

For over twenty years, Mutina has collaborated with **internationally renowned designers and architects** through an ongoing dialogue on materiality, continuously exploring the very concept of **beauty**. Each project emerges from the encounter between **Italian artisanal tradition** and a deeply **contemporary vision of design**, where surfaces are never mere coverings, but instruments of **spatial storytelling**.

Form is the generative principle behind the collaboration with **Neri&Hu**, expressed through two complementary collections: **Weaving** features ceramic surfaces inspired by the art of bamboo weaving, while **Hé** is a new Editions line consisting of tableware objects that reinterpret traditional Chinese ritual geometries.

Colour, on the other hand, lies at the heart of the collaboration with **The Josef & Anni Albers Foundation**, which gives rise to **Homage to the Square**, a collection inspired by Josef Albers' perceptual theories. In this project, ceramics become a field of chromatic interaction: layered tones, optical vibrations, and plays of light transform each surface into a dynamic and ever-changing visual experience.

Both projects will be presented through a special installation at **Casa Mutina**, reaffirming the space not merely as a showroom, but as a place for reflection and dialogue between **art, architecture, and design**.

MUTINA

NERI&HU X MUTINA WEAVING



THE COLLABORATION

Neri&Hu is an architecture and design studio founded in **Shanghai** in **2004** by **Lyndon Neri** and **Rossana Hu**. Internationally recognised for their ability to reconcile **tradition and innovation**, they pursue a **multidisciplinary approach** grounded in the idea that design should not merely serve a function, but generate meaning. Their work draws on historical, philosophical and craft references to construct sophisticated forms capable of restoring cultural depth to contemporary living.

The collaboration with **Mutina** stems from a shared vision of design as a **research practice**, in which ceramics becomes an ideal field of experimentation: an ancient material, steeped in history, that lends itself to being reimagined both as an architectural surface and as an object for use.

From this encounter, two complementary collections emerge: **Weaving**, a collection of porcelain surfaces inspired by the art of bamboo weaving; and **Hé**, a line of Editions that revisits the geometries of ancient Chinese ritual vessels. Both explore form as a generative principle, one that gains meaning through relationship: with space, with light, with use. In the case of Weaving, **“Like a single strand of wicker”**, they state, **“each element is a unit of potential. Only when interwoven together with others does it transform a cohesive surface.”**

Mutina interprets this philosophy by translating **ancient craft techniques** into a **contemporary ceramic language**, in which each element exists in relation to the system it belongs to. In this sense, Weaving explores the rhythmic dialogue between solids and voids, while Hé celebrates the value of the ordinary, elevating it into a daily ritual.

As in the spaces designed by Neri&Hu, these new collections translate porcelain material into a silent yet powerful presence, capable of entering into profound resonance with its surroundings. Weaving and Hé are an exercise in **cultural translation**: a tribute to craft memory that interlaces heritage and innovation through the conscious use of form.

MUTINA

THE COLLECTION

Inspired by the ancient Chinese art of bamboo weaving, **Weaving** is a collection of porcelain surfaces designed by **Neri&Hu** for Mutina, reinterpreting a craft tradition for contemporary living.

The collection abstracts the delicate **weave** into a refined graphic language, exploring the rhythmic **interaction between solids and voids**, in which material form and negative space generate a dynamic balance. The strategic use of black colour, in the mixed options, enhances this depth, granting the voids a second level of visual perception and adding three-dimensionality to the surface.

Weaving is a collection made of **full-body coloured porcelain stoneware**. The modules are 9 mm thick and come in different shapes and sizes, which, when combined, allow for the creation of three different interlocking patterns, each inspired by a different craft technique: **San Jiao** (triangle), **Si Fang** (square) and **Ba Leng** (octagon). Each pattern establishes a specific rhythm of density and transparency, enabling architects and designers to construct diverse spatial narratives—from delicately textured surfaces to more assertive graphic compositions.

Weaving is available in a range of natural matte tones and multi-colour blends that evoke the characteristic shades of bamboo at different stages of maturation.

The production of the collection is the result of **synergy between artisanal porcelain expertise and state-of-the-art manufacturing technologies**. Each element is produced using dedicated moulds specific to each format, in order to ensure maximum precision in the three-dimensional rendering of the surfaces. **Manual extraction from each mould** is carried out with artisanal care to preserve the integrity of the structure and the definition of the edges, whose slight irregularities make each piece unique.

Each element is **mounted on mesh**, like a true **mosaic**, in order to achieve a high level of precision and to simplify **installation**.

The collection is suitable for both **wall** and **floor** applications, **indoors** and **outdoors**. All elements are characterised by a distinctive texture and a **natural shade variation**, achieved through a controlled variation of the clay mixture and slight temperature fluctuations during the firing cycle. This process gives the collection a sense of movement typical of woven structures, generating a visual effect of depth and dynamism.

Weaving pays tribute to a timeless tradition through meticulous work of translation. The art of weaving is elevated to a **modular design system** in which cultural heritage shapes contemporary expression, making each surface a testament to **the beauty of interconnection**.

MUTINA

NERI&HU X MUTINA EDITIONS HÉ



THE COLLECTION

With **Hé** (from Chinese, “harmonious series”), **Neri&Hu** return to the elementary language of **ancient ritual vessels** to celebrate the ordinary and elevate the everyday.

The collection represents **a philosophical exploration of ceramics**, guided by the Hegelian conception of symbolic art, which holds that abstract and spiritual ideas seek form in material expression, giving rise to objects that are at once enigmatic and deeply evocative.

In symbolic art, Hegel described the tension between meaning and form, often resolved through primary geometries and monumental abstractions. Neri&Hu embrace this legacy by translating ancient cosmological principles into everyday objects.

Fāng (square) and **Yuán** (circle)—symbols of earth and heaven in Chinese cosmology—form the vocabulary of the collection: essential shapes that express a philosophy of coexistence between contrast and harmony.

The collection reinterprets, in a contemporary key, the principles of **balance, symmetry, and formal hierarchy** typical of those artifacts, transferring them into a decorative context connected to the domestic sphere. From this formal and symbolic reinterpretation emerges a new **Editions** line composed of three types of objects, characterized by the elegant combination of **ceramic and solid wood**.

The first, **Chéng no. 1**, is a vase composed of two interlocking elements: a square ceramic base on which a circular wooden tray is placed. The second variant, **Chéng no. 2**, features a ceramic base with a central cylinder rising from the surface of a wooden plate.

The second object, **Bi**, is a tray made of three glazed ceramic cylindrical containers arranged one inside the other to create a series of concentric circles. The progression of scale is emphasized by the chromatic and finish sequence chosen for the two matte-finish variants.

The third object, **Shuāng**, is a raised support composed of two circular elements connected by a central axis. The lower surface is in ceramic, while the upper one, in solid wood, is designed as a rotating element, in continuity with Chinese tradition, where movement encourages sharing and transforms the act of serving into a collective experience.

Each object is available in the **Dawn** and **Dusk** colour variants.

MUTINA

Each element is made using **the ancient slip-casting technique** and subsequently **hand-glazed**. The collection is the result of a slow and precise process that respects the material and allows for the creation of sculptural objects with forms and proportions typical of ancient traditional Chinese vessels. The finish of the ceramic elements is extremely matte and tactile, achieved through a double hand-applied glaze. The result is a deep, vibrant surface that enhances the primordial character of the material. At the end of the process, **each piece is hand-signed and numbered** to emphasize the authenticity of artisanal production.

With Hé, ceramic artifacts are transformed into functional objects with soft, measured surfaces, imbued with a discreet sense of gravity. The collection does not impose its meaning but suggests it, allowing the user to perceive, in these elementary forms, **a deeper continuity between past and present, spirit and matter, use and symbol**.

In this way, Neri&Hu propose the idea that even the most essential objects can become carriers of cultural memory and metaphysical aspiration. The intention is to create objects that are both humble and profound, rooted in ancient philosophy yet fully alive within the daily ritual of living. A project of **symbolic art**, in which every form holds a thought and every gesture becomes an attribution of meaning.

NERI&HU DESIGN AND RESEARCH OFFICE

Lyndon Neri, Hon. FAIA, and Rossana Hu are Founding Partners of Neri&Hu Design and Research Office. Whether through objects of intimate daily use or vessels of inhabitation, they seek an approach to design that draws from multiple disciplines to provide experiences that enrich contemporary life while still keeping a critical linkage to a collective history.

Alongside their design practice, Lyndon and Rossana have been deeply committed to architectural education and have lectured across the globe in various universities and professional forums, including University of California, Berkeley, Harvard Graduate School of Design, Yale School of Architecture and others. Rossana was appointed as Chair of the Department of Architecture at Tongji University in 2021 and Chair of the Department of Architecture at the University of Pennsylvania Weitzman School of Design, effective spring semester 2024. Lyndon was appointed as Visiting Faculty at Princeton University School of Architecture for the spring semesters of 2024 and 2025.

Lyndon and Rossana are also Founding Partners of Design Republic in Shanghai since 2004, a design platform incorporating a retail concept, design and cultural exhibitions, and education.

neriandhu.com/en
@neriandhu

MUTINA

THE JOSEF & ANNI ALBERS FOUNDATION X MUTINA HOMAGE TO THE SQUARE



THE COLLABORATION

The Josef & Anni Albers Foundation is the institution dedicated to preserving and promoting the artistic legacy of two central figures of twentieth-century modernism—pioneers in the exploration of colour, form and perception. From its dialogue with Mutina comes **Homage to the Square**, a new porcelain surface collection inspired by **Josef Albers's** iconic painting series. The project originates from the encounter between two kindred visions, both rooted in experimentation and in a shared reflection on the relationship between perception, form and space.

The collection, made in collaboration with The Josef & Anni Albers Foundation, will be presented during **Milan Design Week 2026** at **Casa Mutina Milano**. Coinciding with this, Villa Panza in Varese has just opened the exhibition *Josef Albers: Meditations*, a selection of twenty-nine works from the series that inspired the collection for Mutina. An opportunity to discover the extraordinary work on colour by the German artist.

Josef Albers devoted much of his research to the interaction of colours, studying their variations through rigorous and repetitive geometric structures. According to the artist, colour is never isolated, but lives and changes in relation to its context. **“In mathematics, one plus one plus one equals three”**, he used to say, **“but in art it equals three or more.”** The whole is greater than the sum of its individual parts, because these, in dialogue with one another, generate unexpected effects.

Mutina reinterprets this theory, transforming porcelain surfaces into dynamic fields of chromatic interaction. The collection draws inspiration from the hues of the celebrated **Homage to the Square** series—tones that shift and transform with light, compositional rhythm and context.

As with Albers, **geometry** for Mutina is a means of investigating perception. Over time, the company has developed a coherent visual language composed of chromatic stratifications, refined textures and a design approach focused on substance, balance and longevity. **Form, colour and material** coexist within an open system, in which each element gains meaning in relation to the others.

This affinity also extends to a shared philosophy of living. As evidenced by images of the spaces inhabited by Josef and Anni Albers, the essential is never about subtraction, but about precision. The collection reflects this idea, translating ceramic material into a silent yet powerful presence, capable of responding to the specific needs of each context.

Homage to the Square is therefore more than a collection—it is an exercise in resonance, a tribute to a method and a way of thinking that continues to speak to the present. A project that intertwines art and design through the use of colour and the mysteries of its perception.

MUTINA

THE COLLECTION

The **Homage to the Square** collection translates **Josef Albers's** theories into a coherent and refined ceramic grammar, balanced between geometric rigour and chromatic sensitivity.

The individual elements, measuring **15x15 cm**, are made of **unrectified porcelain stoneware** (retaining the natural variations of the firing process) and feature **two main patterns**, both structured around the **repetition (and variation) of the square module**.

Dash is characterised by a glossy section set within a matte frame, with four smaller glossy squares positioned at its extremities. Together, the glossy surfaces capture light and reflect its nuances. **Dot**, by contrast, offers a more essential yet equally sophisticated tactile experience, created through the interaction between the matte surface and the small squares placed at the corners, whose polished finish produces a refined material contrast. The surface takes shape through a sequence of steps that draw on **the most established techniques of ceramic tradition**, reinterpreted with a contemporary sensibility. Washes, overlays, and glaze applications build distinct yet perfectly integrated chromatic layers, where different finishes—matte and glossy—emerge through precise control of the material and its reactions.

Subtle irregularities, a natural expression of the production process, make each piece unique, enhancing its material richness and precious character. It is **a process that requires experience and mastery**: every stage contributes to defining the final quality, transforming each element into a triumph of depth, light, and matter. Ceramic objects that reflect not only light, but also the knowledge that shaped them.

Homage to the Square is available in a palette of seven tones—**Sea, Evergreen, Chocolate, Ice, Citron, Sage and Peach**—inspired by Josef Albers's paintings and his studies on chromatic interactions. Each shade has been selected to evoke the same visual vibration and emotional intensity that characterise the artist's work. To achieve this, extensive research was conducted into glazes, pigments and ceramic applications, in order to obtain, on the same tile, different tonal values while maintaining the same level of saturation and definition.

Finally, the two patterns, conceived to be used either individually or in combination, allow for a wide degree of **compositional freedom**. The arrangement of each element influences the rendering of colour and thickness, which interact with one another to create compelling perceptual effects. The possible configurations invite a **personal interpretation of space**, offering decorative solutions that are at once expressive, elegant and highly impactful.

More than a surface collection, Homage to the Square is a contemporary tribute to one of the most brilliant minds of visual modernism—as well as an invitation to rediscover, through ceramics, the art of balance between form and perception.

THE JOSEF & ANNI ALBERS FOUNDATION

The Josef & Anni Albers Foundation perpetuates the vision of Anni and Josef Albers through exhibitions, publications, education, and outreach concomitant with the Alberses' personal values. The aim of the Foundation, as established by the Alberses in 1972, is "the revelation and evocation of vision through art".

albersfoundation.org
@albers_foundation

MUTINA

MUTINA

For over twenty years, Mutina has shaped **the essence of ceramics through dialogue with some of the leading designers, architects and artists of our time**. Encounter lies at the heart of the company's philosophy, which sees human and creative interplay as its most valuable resource. For this reason, Mutina operates at the intersection of **design, architecture and art**, challenging conventional production logics and exploring new spatial and material languages.

Drawing on an in-depth knowledge of **materials and production techniques**, Mutina brings together the quality of **Italian artisanal tradition with the precision of innovative industrial technologies**, shaping an authentic and timeless product. This balance is the result of a **savoir-faire** developed over the years, which has redefined ceramics as a medium of research and expression.

Alongside its surface collections, this approach extends to the **Editions**. Produced in limited runs, they are handcrafted objects in which ceramics become both an expressive medium and a collectible artefact. The company's relationship with contemporary art finds its fullest expression in **Mutina for Art**, the non-profit project that supports experimentation and cultural exchange, expanding the company's field of research beyond the product itself.

Sensitivity to form, drive for innovation and openness to cross-disciplinary dialogue have always been central to Mutina's design philosophy. Today, this vision is distilled into a single, constant aim: **to shape beauty**.

mutina.it
@mutinaceramics

For more information and materials, please contact:

Stefano Pitigliani
press@mutina.it
+39 348 1412001
www.mutina.it