

# the influencers

They all share a similar preoccupation for space and context, their concerns revolving around the client, the user, the audience – those who will experience, share and partake of the environments they create, modify, restructure or rehabilitate. As part of our Architectural issue, and also in celebration of the year dedicated to European Cultural Heritage, as well as that in which Valletta holds the title of European Capital of Culture, HOMEWORKS meets the movers and shakers in the fields of architecture and design, those who are established and the rising stars who are shaping and actively contributing to Malta's architectural legacy

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Left page, top row L to R: Professor Alex Torpiano, Chris Briffa, Matthew Mercieca, Christian Spiteri, Simon Grech, David Felice  
 Left page, bottom row L to R: Michael Pace, Anthea Huber, Patricia Grech, Steven Risiott  
 This page, top row L to R: Dr Edwin Mintoff, Professor Richard England, Konrad Buhagiar, David Drago, Alan Grech, Ray Demicoli  
 This page, bottom row L to R: Janice Fiorentino, Peter Valentino, Karl Ebejer, Sandro Valentino



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### Janice Fiorentino / (X,Y,Z) Architecture & Design

Founded in 2013, (X,Y,Z) is an architecture and design studio led by three partners: Daniel Camilleri, Janice Fiorentino and Daniel Micallef. A multi-disciplinary team, it offers a range of services from the overall architecture and spatial design, to dealing with planning applications, followed by detailed structural drawings, and topped off with custom-designed interiors.

**Design philosophy:** Spaces set the mood for an inherent experience. Whether it's a home, work place or a local hang-out, we are defined by that moment of welcome upon entry. Our senses react to form an experience within the space, reflecting the identity of the client which is then shared with the visitor. Conceived spaces do not compete with the user but a canvas for the functions within. They create a backdrop, composed of light, defined colour palettes, textures, materials and ergonomics, ensuring a pleasant experience for the end user. In the end, this will be part of the bigger picture; giving the community quality urban spaces, homes and workplaces where people interact and create memories together in our fast-paced world.

**Hero project/s** The Living Office at EY Malta, Msida; Private Residences City Soul & White Cube, Attard.



'Architecture defines the spaces we live. That is what conceives our experiences, moods and memories'



### Patricia Grech + Steven Risiott / A Collective

A Malta-based, architecture and design studio founded in 2014 by architects Steven Risiott and Patricia Grech. The studio strives to steer away from the traditional concept of 'Il-Perit' being the jack of all trades, but rather brings together creative individuals, to collectively achieve a better result. The collaborations formed, inspire dialogue and raise the bar such that each project strives for all round excellence.

**Design philosophy:** A Collective roots itself in contextual design, hoping to enrich the local architecture scene and enhance the quality of life of the end user. The approach to each and every project is purely architectural, concerned with the infiltration of natural light and its resulting play of shadows along with a careful study of proportions. The studio employs an eclectic palette inspired by honesty, purity and nature with a complete disregard for stylistic materiality.

**Hero projects** Modernist Townhouse, Birkirkara; GTS Offices, Valletta.



'Architecture is an equation; the balance of context, space and social interaction with form, proportions, materials and light. When these parameters are carefully studied, harmony is achieved and cannot be questioned. Good architecture is therefore objectively beautiful'



### Ray Demicoli / Demicoli & Associates

Ray Demicoli graduated from the University of Malta with a degree in Architecture and Civil Engineering. He joined Malta Consult in 1976 and soon after took an architectural post with DP International in Paris. He established his own practice, Demicoli & Associates, in 1985.

**Design philosophy:** The role of an architect is to question, challenge and push boundaries, and to make something special of every task at hand, no matter what the scale.

**Hero projects include:** The Mosta Technopark; his own residence in Mensija, which was nominated for the Mies Van De Rohe European Architectural Award; The offices at The Mall, Floriana; Joinwell Showroom, Qormi; Portomaso; and Palm City in Libya.



'Keep your measures true and be faithful to your promises'



### Matthew James Mercieca / MJMDA

A practising architect of almost 20 years, Matthew is founder, senior architect and CEO of MJMDA. The firm has been commissioned and has completed numerous residential, commercial, food & beverage and hospitality projects with a unified design approach: one that sees a continuous thread from project inception to completion. His vision is to integrate design and deliver results that are user ready, functional and enjoyable. His designs have won awards by Din L-Art Helwa and he was awarded Best Architecture Entrepreneur of the Year for 2016.

**Design philosophy** To propagate architecture, structures, building services in an integrated fashion as a refined response to solve specific end user requirements, positively impacting humanity and civilisation; to persistently rise above architecture as a chaotic by-product of necessity and transition to controlled solutions to best address our physical, psychological, emotional and eccentric needs; to employ the latest technologies and offer innovative sectorial services and to be recognisable as a market leaders and trend-setters.

**Hero Projects** Still Kinetic, Detached Villa, SPTT; Solid Porosity, Semi-Detached Villa, Madliena; Carcass City Bar, Valletta.



'Architecture as a real and functional 'machine for living' through multidisciplinary collaboration and technology; architecture as integrated design product; architecture as vehicle'