

HOMWORKS

INSPIRATION IMPROVEMENT STYLE



THE CLASSIC &
CONTEMPORARY
ISSUE

MEET THE CREATIVES >

ire dalla modalità a schermo intero.

MALTATYPE

DESIGNERS MATTHEW DEMARCO, 28, KATERINA KARAMALLAKI, 31, AND ED DINGLI, 27, RUN MALTATYPE, CREATING ORIGINAL ARTWORK INSPIRED BY THE TYPOGRAPHY OF OLD SIGNS AND POSTERS THAT ADORN MALTA'S STREETS. HERE, MATTHEW EXPLAINS WHY THEY STARTED UP...



Why launch Maltatype?

When Ed and I were studying design together we sought out obscure bars to work from. Many had all the original signage and we

fell in love with it. When researching branding and type we only ever found links to foreign websites so we created an online resource about Maltese design for people to use and take inspiration from. Later, Ed began working with Kat and she came on board. Her grandfather was a sign-maker so she has a good pedigree!

Tell us about the signs...

You see a strong continental influence in the techniques used, and these were adapted to fit Malta's needs and restrictions at the

times they were created.

For example, many of the signs were made using gold leaf behind painted glass, however, as this method could only be afforded by some, sign-makers resorted to off-cuts of mirrors and pieces of glass sourced from glass cutters nearby. These were bought for pittance and stuck to a board behind a pane of painted glass, with the shapes of the letters left clear on the glass to reveal the 'mosaic' underneath.

To make the process even cheaper, sign-makers would

use crumpled tin foil that gave the letters shine and allowed light to be reflected at different angles.

What are three of your favourite signs...

The Aladdin advert in Merchant's Street, Useful Bazaar in Republic Street and Hollywood Stationer & Bazaar in Republic Street, Valletta. The Aladdin sign was one of the first signs that taught us to stop looking at our feet while we walk through the streets and instead look up and admire the beauty above head-level. **✎**

MONKEYING AROUND

To celebrate the Chinese Year of the Monkey, designer Marcantonio Ramondi Malerba has created a trio of Monkey Lamps for the Italian brand Selvetti (selvetti.it). Each is made of resin and holds an LED lamp. The standing monkey is 54cm high, the hanging 76.5cm and the seated, 32cm high. Also catching the simian mood is Estudio Campana, run by the hip Brazilian design duo Fernando and Humberto Campana. Their limited edition Monkey rug is hand-knotted in Nepal and an impressive 120 knots per inch. The rug, which is shaped like a monkey, can be made to any size and is made to order from nodusrug.it. Definitely designs to grab the attention!

