

BNI Trip 2017: talent and inspiration in Italy

This year and for the third time in a row Abet Laminati has organized the BNI Trip together with Baars & Bloemhoff for the BNI award nominees. A three day visit was scheduled to Milan and to Bra in northern Italy where the Abet Laminati factory is based.

During the first day there was a visit to ps+a (PalombaSerfini Associati) in the trendy area Navigli in Milan. This bureau with more than 70 awards has abundantly earned its spurs in product design. It was very interesting to see here how technological developments like a 3D printer is used to work out details and to make models.

In Milan there was also a visit to Studio aMDL, the bureau of the legendary Michele De Lucchi. Here the group was taken by Piccolo De Lucchi (son of) on a journey through the life of Michele De Lucchi by means of drawings, models, project photos and stories. It was beautiful to see how they work here in a more crafty way from the heart and how they search for the soul in every project.

On day two, Abet Laminati's factory visit was scheduled, where they experienced the production of High Pressure Laminate. A wonderful addition was the visit to the museum of Abet Laminati. In the museum they could see how the materials can be used in different objects, based on a large amount of iconic pieces from the history of the furniture industry.

'THE NOMINEES WERE ALSO PUT TO WORK'

The nominees themselves were also put to work by David Derksen. David, who is a successful designer, conducted this year's very inspiring master class. He told about his work, how he acts in his work and organized a workshop on the spot based on the work of the American artist Sol LeWitt.

The full program and many activities soon led to connectivity and a great atmosphere among the traveling companions. The visit to the offices, the beautiful architecture in Milan, to learn from each other and getting to know each other; how beautiful and complete can such a journey be?!

A CURIOUS FINALE

On September 28, the BNI award ceremony had a remarkable showdown. The distance between the BNI board and the academies seemed so high that the jury was not able to reach agreement on a winner in both the "Bachelor" and the "Master" category.

Baars & Bloemhoff and Abet Laminati were overrun by this decision made by the jury, like all present nominees during this award ceremony. The main reason for both sponsors to commit themselves to the BNI prize for several years already is to offer young interior talent a worthwhile stage. This by rewarding quality, creativity and enthusiasm with such a great price. Abet Laminati and Baars & Bloemhoff expressly distance themselves from the jury's decision and the BNI board not to award the BNI price this year, despite the high quality of the nominees.

With pride we mention the nominees once more: *Allegra Santis, Frédérique Albert, Dave van Toor, Gerlin Bekhuis, Valerie Smalen, Judith Snoeijen, Ianthe Tang, Jolanda Oudshoorn, Melissa Vermeule (bachelor) en Merle Flüge, Eva Hoonhout, Roy Ruijt, Evelien Kranstauber, Marit Reitsma (master).*