

# Leading Ladies of



# Swedish Design

By Charlotte West





Photo© Emma Nilsson



Photo© Emma Nilsson



Sheet metal shelf, 2008

Display Case in MDF and Granite, 2008

Photo© Emma Nilsson



Bench in three types of leather, 2008

Photo© Emma Nilsson



Masonite chest with 18 drawers, 2008

**Name:** Folkform, made up of design duo Anna Holmquist and Chandra Ahlsell.

**Born:** Anna 1978, Chandra 1973.

**Field:** Industrial design.

**Educational background:** 2005 MA in Industrial Design at Konstfack.

**Main clients and/or projects:** Our own collections, the most recent of which is "Unique Standard".

**Favorite object of design:** Marble Cabinet. We think it's interesting to combine the original material with surfaces that try to imitate its appearance. To play with the perception of various materials.

**Sources of inspiration:** We are constantly collecting everyday materials and standard building details and profiles. But of course

we are also inspired by the people around us, contemporary culture, music and art.

**Design philosophy:** Bringing poetry into the mass produced object. To focus on new areas of applications for material and material experimentation.

**Favorite designers:** There are a lot of really fascinating designers. Ingo Maurer is a great thinker! An artist that inspires us is Clay Ketter.

**Hidden talent:** Anna is a guitar pro, and Chandra loves Vespas from the 60's.

**The music you play while working:** Lykke Li, Grace Jones, the Shins.

**What tools do you always have out on your desk in your studio?** Cardboard and a cutting knife.

**Favorite material and color:** Masonite.



All glass produced by Ann Wählström.



Madras II, 2006



Madras VII, 2006



Bulb XX, 2006



Lollipop XIX, 2006

Foto © Pelle Bergström/Spesia



**Name:** Ann Wählström.

**Born:** 1957, Stockholm.

**Family:** Husband Larry Jasse.

**Field:** Glass with some side tracks in ceramic, metal and textile.

**Educational background:** Capellagården, Orrefors Glass school, Pilchuck Glass School (Washington state), Rhode Island School of Design, Konstfack.

**Main clients and/or projects:** The Jewish Theatre in Stockholm, Design House Stockholm, Svenskt Tenn and my own exhibition objects for Galleri Mårtensson & Persson. Previously Kosta Boda.

**Favorite object of design:** This mouth-blown vase is graphic and organic at the same time. I try to get the essence out of the hot glass and use the gravity and heat to let the material do its thing at the same time as I want to guide it in my personal direction. But the intention is to leave some of the molten fluidity in the hardened material. I love strong patterns and here I have worked with classical Italian techniques with a twist.

**Sources of inspiration:** Nature (shells, sea life and plants) on the one hand and ancient

architecture on the other. But I am also very influenced by early visual impressions from childhood. Illustrated fairy tales by Tove Jansson (Mumin) and Jean de Brunhoff (Babar) have had a big influence on my colors and patterns.

**Design philosophy:** I try to simplify without stripping away the essence. I want my objects to communicate playfulness. I try to follow a timeline of decorative arts and design where I see myself as laying another brick. Humans have always surrounded themselves with objects that tell something of the time they live in and I hope that I am able to portray that.

**Favorite designers:** Tapio Wirkkala, Gio Ponti and sculptor Anish Kapoor.

**Hidden talent:** I played classical violin for many years while growing up.

**The music you play while working:** Daniel Lanois, Cecaria Evora, Ry Cooder, and Feist. But sometimes I need Jordi Savall's Viola da gamba!

**What tools do you always have out on your desk in your studio?** Staedler 4B soft pencil. Magic Rub. Caran D'ache water crayons.

**Favorite material and color:** Glass. I often use a lot of colors, but always return to black and white.



Flakonger, produced by Carina Seth Andersson, 1996-

Photo© Carl Hjelte



Photo© Carl Hjelte

Flakong, 2007



Photo© Åke E:son Lindman

CSA1-CSA2, produced by CBI, 1996



Photo© Paul Allan

Milk glass for Arla, 2004

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95

**Name:** Carina Seth Andersson.

**Born:** 1965, Stockholm.

**Family:** Husband Fabian, two sons, Sam and Olle, and the most beautiful, mean cat, Sigge.

**Field:** Glass is my first material, but I also work with other materials.

**Educational background:** Orrefors glass school, 1993 MFA at Konstfack.

**Main clients and/or projects:** When I worked with Hackman Tools, together with Hackman, Ytterborn and Fuentes, it was a very good project in every way. I've also worked with Iitala, Skruv, Silver, Arla and the National Public Art Council in Linköping.

**Favorite object of design:** At this moment I'm working with bottles with an old stopper and a new, hand-blown body. Each one is different and

some are really ugly and some are so beautiful, but together ...

**Sources of inspiration:** Inspiration can come from everywhere, whether it's talking to someone, looking at older objects, seeing something in the street or in nature, watching a movie, or reading a book.

**Design philosophy:** Letting things take time. Everything in the world goes so fast, but you should take your own time.

**Favorite designers:** I can't say only one.

**Hidden talent:** I just love the Finnish tango.

**The music you play while working:** The radio.

**What tools do you always have out on your desk in your studio?** A knife.

**Favorite material and color:**

Paper and dark grey.



Photo © Umbilical Design



Xero, White, Interior of aircraft for Space tourism 2003–2004

The Seascraper, The Bird House Project, 2007



Photo © Umbilical Design

design  
96



Photo © NASA

CRV – Crew Return Vehicle, 2000–2003



**Name:** Cecilia Hertz.  
**Born:** 1971, Norrköping.  
**Family:** Husband Carl and son Leo, 3.  
**Field:** Space design and space technology transfer  
**Educational background:** MA in Industrial Design in 2000 from Lund Institute of Technology.  
**Main clients:** NASA, ESA, POC, Scania, NCC, Cycleurope.  
**Favorite object of design:** “My” little space vehicle – the CRV Crew Return Vehicle. I was part of a team and designed the interior initially as my graduation project in Lund. It really opened up my eyes to the possibilities of space.  
**Sources of inspiration:** If you haven’t experienced zero gravity, you can’t design for space. I have experienced weightlessness myself in a parabolic flight. It was an experience that gave me totally new perceptions of an interior. There is no ceiling or floor so you can use the whole area.  
**Design philosophy:** My company, Umbilical Design, is dedicated to space design and technology transfer from the space industry to consumer

products. We strongly believe that technologies and know-how from the space industry can contribute to the development of sustainable products that improve the Earth. I am interested in what I call volume management and ‘weightless thinking.’ We need to be brave – we need to challenge our clients so we don’t just create more products.  
**Favorite designer:** the NASA architects!  
**Hidden talent/interest:** I’ve trained in Aikido for 12 years.  
**The music you play while working:** At the moment I like Maia Hirasawa, Britta Persson. An old favorite is U2!  
**What tools do you always have out on your desk in your studio?** It might sound boring, but my computer and the telephone. My work is so much about communication.  
**Favorite material and color:** A pollution-absorbing coating that can be applied to houses in order to create a better everyday life for people living in our polluted city centers. I think that is a really beautiful product.



Cloud, developed by Snowcrash, produced by Offecct, 2003



Flame, produced by Design House Stockholm, 2008



Alone armchair, produced by Poltrona Frau, 2007



Esedra pouf, produced by Poltrona Frau, 2007

**Name:** Monica Förster.

**Born:** 1968.

**Family:** Son Bruno, 3.5.

**Field:** Industrial design.

**Educational background:** 1995 Beckmans School of Design, 1997 Konstfack.

**Main clients and/or projects:** Poltrona Frau, Tacchini, Modus, I+I carpets, Offecct, Swedese and Design House Stockholm, among others.

**Favorite object of design:** Cashmere carpets for I+I carpets. In the photo, samples of the cashmere carpets made from fractal patterns, made into pillows.

**Sources of inspiration:** Life.

**Design philosophy:** Inspiration is easy – ideas are hard work. The work is in transforming the inspiration found in everyday life into valid design ideas.

**Favorite designers:** Really difficult to say just one person. To mention a few that I have known for many years, I really like Arik Levy. I am so happy that his career is going so well right now. He is a wonderful person, who is very kind, warm and thoughtful. I also really like Ilka Suppanen for the same reasons. To mention someone in Sweden, I would say Thomas Sandell.

**Hidden talent:** I'm very good at table tennis and other sports (except skiing).

**The music you play while working:** The radio mostly and my assistants' tastes in music.

**What tools do you always have out on your desk in your studio?** My pen.

**Favorite material and color:** I don't have a favorite material. It all depends on the idea.



Cushions, I+I carpets, 2008

Strandby, 100 % tufted wool rug, produced by Ikea of Sweden, 2007

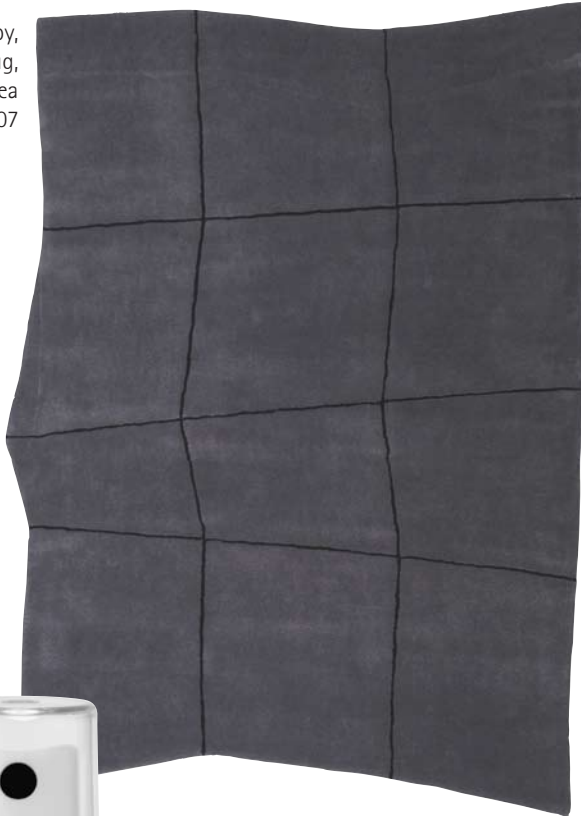


Photo © Studio Ikea

Daisy, printed fabric, produced by Ikea of Sweden, Studio Ikea, 2007



Photo © Studio Ikea



Photo © Studio CA

Perfume, produced by Collex Japan, 2006



Photo © Studio CA

Karaff Barbara, glass, produced by Design House Stockholm, 2008



**Name:** Nina Jobs.

**Field:** Industrial design.

**Family:** Olle, black labrador.

**Educational background:** Ecole Nationale Supérieure les Arts Décoratifs (Paris), RMI-Berghs and University College of Arts, Crafts and Design

**Main clients and/or projects:** Abstracta AB, Gärsnäs AB, Askul Tokyo, Collex Tokyo, Design House Stockholm, LM Ericsson, among others.

**Favorite object of design:** The glass caraff Barbara, the shape. The shape is worked out to 'host' the bowl in the bottom. Fun and flirty where the function is performed in a new way.

**Sources of inspiration:** I travel a lot overseas and meeting different cultures and studying

different lifestyles is inspiring. But at the end ... the idea should be worked out in a sustainable way to improve our daily life.

**Design philosophy:** The form, function and material are to be combined in a sustainable way. Distinct and sophisticated expression and adds pleasure to our lives. Simple and timeless.

**Favorite designers:** Issey Miyake, Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec and Åke Axelsson.

**Hidden talent:** Hunting and baking bread.

**The music you play while working:** Silence.

**What tools do you always have out on your desk in your studio?** Macbook Air.

**Favorite material and color:** Everything that is tactile.



Photo © Alessandro Paderni

Klossa chair, produced by Fornasarig, 2007



Photo © Björn Keller/Link

Bag in leather, 2005



Photo © Björn Keller/Link

Slipper ballerina in salmon skin, 2007



Photo © Björn Keller/Link

Slits bracelet, 1997

**Name:** Pia Wallén.

**Field:** Textiles.

**Educational background:** Fashion at Beckmans School of Design.

**Main clients:** Electrolux, Brio, Fornasarig and my own company Pia Wallén AB.

**Favorite object of design:** My Slitz bracelet.

Even though I designed it in 1997, I still love the combination of silver and the unexpected felt lining inside. For me it's playful and classic and wearing it gives me pleasure, joy and beauty.

**Sources of inspiration:** Different techniques, handicraft as well as commercial production.

Old traditional materials as well as modern and futuristic. This is the source where all my stories begin and drive the creative process forward to the

final product. The Scandinavian tradition is a part of me and my view, but other references also have a strong influence in my work.

**Design philosophy:** Intelligence, care and heart are central to my work.

**Favorite designer:** Patricia Urquiola, Jasper Morrison, Naoto Fokosawa, Rei Kawakubo.

**Hidden talent/interest:** I enjoy playing tennis and I love to dance.

**The music you play while working:** At this moment, loud Eros Ramasotti fills my studio.

**What tools do you always have out on your desk in your studio?** Paper, pen, flowers – but most important are my brain and my hands.

**Favorite material and color:** Felt and red/orange have been strong in my work.





Frank, cupboard in birch-wood, produced by NC-Möbler, 2007

Photo® Fredrik Sandin Carlsson



Metal Queen  
Lacquered  
metalvase with  
separate lid to  
arrange the  
flowers.  
Produced by  
Formtanke/  
Sara Szyber,  
2002

Photo® Studio CA



Gotlands naturrum, Interior design for a permanent exhibition about Gotland's nature. Produced by Gotland Municipal County, 2005

Photo® Futurniture



Wing folding table, birch  
produced by Design  
House Stockholm, 1993

Photo® Studio CA



**Name:** Sara Szyber.  
**Born:** 1963, Stockholm.  
**Family:** Husband Bogdan and sons Frank, 13, and Carl-Jonathan, 18.  
**Field:** Furniture and exhibition design.  
**Educational background:** Furniture and interior design at Konstfack 1993.  
**Main clients and/or projects:** Exquise, NC Möbler, Design House Stockholm, Askul, Vamlingbolaget, Riksställningar (Swedish Travelling Exhibitions), Gotlands Naturum (Gotland Visitor's Centre).  
**Favorite object of design:** Wing Desk for Design House Stockholm. I always wanted to draw a writing desk, which was easy to place and live with.  
**Sources of inspiration:** Industrial materials, design from the 1920s and 30s, cars, contemporary art.

**Design philosophy:** I want my furniture design to be perceived for its graphic, concrete expression and clear material use. I like to develop an idea into a series of furniture, pieces that build a family with characteristic and obvious features. I am a Scandinavian designer in the sense that I work quite minimalistically and strive to use material and form in a functional way.  
**Favorite designers:** Christopher Dresser, Gio Ponti, Charlotte Perriand, Thonet brothers.  
**Hidden talent:** I am a singer.  
**The music you play while working:** Trentemöller, Monolake, PJ Harvey.  
**What tools do you always have out on your desk in your studio?** A lead pencil and the computer.  
**Favorite material and color:** Lacquered metal, black and white.

Photo © Michael Perlmutter



Horisont, Rotundan, The Royal Opera of, Stockholm, Sweden, 2003



Photo © Bengt O Pettersson

Krusad, brass lamp with linnen shade lamp, 2007



Kokong, textile art project with Margot Barolo, Almgrens Sidenväveri and Museum Stockholm, 2005



Photo © Johan Resele

Ribs Today, a knitted-curtain in linnen from the collection "A Brave New World", 2008

**Name:** Ulrika Mårtensson.

**Born:** 1969, Skåne.

**Family:** Husband and two sons 4.5 and 1.5 years old.

**Field:** Architecture, textile design and textile art

**Educational background:** Department of Architecture at Lund University, Textile design at Konstfack.

**Main clients and/or projects:** The Royal Opera of Sweden for The Swedish Governmental Art Council, Karolinska University Hospital for the Art Council of the County Council, Mute: On for Ludvig Svensson Markspelle AB, Knits By The Metre, Svenskt Tenn AB, Almgrens Silk Factory and Museum, Gamla Uppsala Church and HV Ateljé.

**Favorite object of design:** Wobbling Wool Plaid, because plaid unites a traditional material with modern manufacturing that creates a three-dimensional form in the knitting process, at the same time it is a tactile experience that isolates both heat and cool.

**Sources of inspiration:** Travels to other cultures

(my family and I often go abroad), people, nature, architecture, structures, science and function/needs.

**Design philosophy:** I am interested in both the meeting between architecture/space and textile materials/textile volumes and the meeting between textile materials and people. I am also interested in developing the understanding of the potential of using textile materials in today's architecture, both interiors and exteriors. I work with tailor-made textiles for large architectural scales.

**Favorite designers:** Issey Miyake and Shigeru Ban.

**Hidden talent:** I know how to tie a fishing net. I used to do it together with the old fisherman at our summer place on Öland.

**The music you play while working:** I listen to the radio, but I like silence.

**What tools do you always have out on your desk in your studio?** My computer and my Japanese scissors.

**Favorite material and color:** Textile materials and most colors.

