



STYLING PERNILLE VEST

PHOTOGRAPHY IRINA BOERSMA

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WHEN ONE IS IMMERSSED IN BEAUTY, THERE IS NO NEED FOR EXPLANATION.
CREATIVE DIRECTOR JACK DAHL SAKURAI
ON WHY WE'VE HAD ENOUGH OF UGLY.



STUDIO VISIT



Homework's studio is akin to an atelier, filled with artworks and sculptural furniture to recharge and inspire creativity. A simplified version of Gerrit Thomas Rietveld's Steltman Wood chair, made by his assistant Gerard van de Groenekan, sits near one of Rietveld's Zig Zag chairs by Cassina from 3 Falke Møbler. There are sculptures by Kent Holm, Knud Axelsen and Roger Coll and the Homework podium is from Solits.



JACK DAHL SAKURAI practices what he preaches. Since the early years of his design studio Homework, he has built up a concentrated and ambitious practice that is permeated by a notion of “silent sophistication”. What could be timelier? The studio is guided by a quote from Dante’s *Purgatorio*: “Beauty awakens the soul to act”, and there is a sense of spirituality that lingers over Dahl Sakurai, both personally and professionally. He talks about practising concentration and the power of breathing, adding that Homework’s employees meditate together for ten minutes every day.

This extends to the unorthodox sensation its central Copenhagen space evokes. Akin to an atelier, a place of both inspiration and work, it is filled with a particular kind of light that sits between pale and warm, as if made for a minimalist yet enveloping Scandinavian aesthetic. At the same time, it is decidedly continental, scattered with found objects both classical and modern. A Gerrit Rietveld chair stands next to a smooth marble sculpture. “This space is a place where we all mentally come back to and recharge. The idea is that the space should inspire you, accompany you and help you. Being aware of materials, shapes, details, textures and colours, we’re pulled towards pieces with an emotional resonance,” he says.

Originating from Funen in southern Denmark, Dahl Sakurai who studied at The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, School of Design describes himself as self-taught with “so much more to learn”. The studio name is a nod to this. Moving to Paris, he was taken on by legendary art director and founder of the fashion bible *Self Service*, Ezra Petronio, as his agency’s first design trainee. “I was in heaven of aesthetics overload,” says Dahl Sakurai, who was propelled to the forefront of luxury, working with the likes of Celine, Prada and Jil Sander. Petronio instilled in him a notion of designing to delight our intellect, heart and senses, which, in turn, became a characteristic of Homework. Its clients include Commes des Garçons Parfums, Bottega Veneta, Fritz Hansen, Paustian, Vipp, Armani and YSL.

By knowing what was before and what is now, Homework seeks to balance the progressive and the timeless. “I believe in beautiful life-enhancing experiences — we’ve all had enough of ugly. Ugly is a failure of the imagination. We get to beauty through design and craft,” says its founder.



The black chair by Johan Lytz is paired with a sculptural stool from CasaShop and a Trio chair by Peter Karpf from Iform. On the table is a sculpture by Roger Coll and in the back corner the white fibreglass chair is by Olivier Gregoire. OPPOSITE: On the table by Bertjan Pot from Arco is a lamp prototype in marble. The Fronzoni 64 chair is from Cappellini.