

# HALL OF FAME



There is a shared outlook that unites our inaugural Hall of Fame. This intuitiveness remains a steady bellwether, alongside a trust in the creative process and a propensity to listen to place, light, material and time.

Each of the five cross-disciplinary architects and designers has built a body of work encapsulated by depth and conviction, while all working fluidly across architecture, interiors, products, and far beyond their home base.

WORDS ALEESHA CALLAHAN

**“WHAT HAS REMAINED CONSTANT IS A BELIEF IN ESSENCE AND PURITY. STRIPPING THINGS BACK UNTIL ONLY WHAT IS NECESSARY REMAINS.”**

# VINCENT VAN DUYSSEN



Belgian architect **Vincent Van Duysen** founded his namesake design studio in 1989. He was appointed creative director of Italian furniture company Molteni&C in 2016.

PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF MOLTENI&C, PIET-ALBERT GOETHALS, ZEB DAEMEN

Over more than three decades of practice, Vincent Van Duysen's work has remained guided by the principle of reduction. What remains constant, even as scale, geography and programme shift, is "a belief in essence and purity". His architecture and design are shaped by an instinct to strip things back "until only what is necessary remains," placing trust in restraint, proportion and material honesty. Passion, for Van Duysen, does not reside in excess but in refinement.

Rather than a single defining project, his practice evolves through continual recalibrations, directed by the same underlying question: "What is essential here, and what can be left behind?"

Extending this philosophy across disciplines, Van Duysen does not distinguish

between them. "Design doesn't stop at architecture or start at an object," he explains. It begins with intent and resolves through scale and scope. What matters, though, is coherence—ensuring that each space, furniture and detail "all speak the same language"—trusting that when the core idea is clear, the rest follows naturally.

Learning, for Van Duysen, is ongoing and diffuse. Lessons have been unearthed through encounters and friendships, and an inclination for reading and observing the world. "It's a continuous process that can enrich and empower us human beings," he says, suggesting a practice shaped by lived experience as well as professional milestones. This open attitude has reinforced his approach to international work. For Van Duysen, designing outside

of Belgium is treated as an invitation—a prompt to listen more carefully to place, culture and people—where each project is "entirely tailor-made".

Van Duysen speaks of an essential chemistry that manifests from a client and location, where "the soul of the place and the client slowly surface and guide the design." The alchemy of circumstance and context is what then emerges and shapes the outcome.

The advice that remains direct and unwavering is to: "Stay true to oneself, never give up, be persistent and have a goal." In Van Duysen's work, clarity is a disciplined way of seeing, because, as he states, "authenticity is not designed. It is safeguarded."



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**Clockwise from left:** The Drops by Vincent Van Duysen for The TwentyFour Six (2025); DH Apartment by Vincent Van Duysen Architects, Knokke, Belgium; M Offices by Vincent Van Duysen Architects, New Delhi, India. **Opposite page:** JNcQUOI Club Comporta by Vincent Van Duysen Architects, Comporta, Portugal.

