The latin root of the word silence is desinere, meaning “stop”.

The type of stopping at the roots of silence is that which enables an individual to take the sensory measure of the world.

'We all crave noise somewhere, sometime in our lives; but we’ve swung the balance so far in the direction of loudness, and stripped ourselves of so many oases of quiet, that we’re losing both the will and ability to listen to what’s actually out there.'

An excerpt from In Pursuit of Silence by George Prochnik

It's ironic that in being detached from our surroundings, we become more attuned and sensitive to it. Through this momentary solace, we begin to make subtle discoveries. Desinere thus approaches design through quiet reflection of relationships between items, people & experiences; to create authentic, honest objects that are refreshingly unexpected.
About Desinere

Melvin Ong / Founder

Upon graduating with a Diploma in Furniture Design in 2008 at Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, Melvin left for London to pursue his degree in Product Design and graduated with First-Class Honours from Central St Martin’s College of Art & Design in 2010.

During his stay in the UK, Melvin had the opportunity to be under the tutelage of established designers such as Chris Lefteri and Reiko Kaneko. He then went on to work with London design agency Brand42, where he was involved with projects from CNN, Johnnie Walker and Mailonline.

Melvin has also exhibited his personal work as part of a collaborative at Tent London 2010 and the Milan Salone Satellite in 2011. With these experiences that quietly moulded him, he made a decision to relocate back home to Singapore in 2012 to establish his studio, Desinere.

Desinere saw its debut into the world, launching its first collection in Design Tide Tokyo 2012 and later at Tortona Design Week in Milan in 2013. In the same year Melvin was part of the team which won the President’s Design award for best product under the label - Democratic Society by local retailer, Supermama.

In 2014, Melvin was recognised for his efforts and was awarded the title of 'Rising Asian Talent' by Maison et Objet Asia.
Collection of furniture, lamps & homeware accessories by Desinere
The genesis of Monolith began with a square and through a series of subdivisions & exploratory folding; this process was allowed to reach a ‘moment of serendipity’ in which form and function start to take shape.
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Concrete Paperweight

ROK
The Singapore Icons Studio Project is initiated by SUPERMAMA to create a collection of ceramic ware with Japanese ceramic company KIHARA INC. The Project’s key design intent is to explore the possibility of identifying, beyond the Merlion, new Singapore icons.

Desinere was one of the design studios invited to participate in this Project. Our Tembusu tree motif was launched as part of a collection of ceramic ware under SUPERMAMA’s new label - Democratic Society.
Famous for its distinctive sweeping low branch, the majestic Tembusu tree that resides in the Singapore Botanic Gardens is a designated Heritage Tree in Singapore and is believed to have existed before the gardens were first laid out in 1859.

Standing before this treasured relic of Singapore, one cannot help but stare in awe of its grandeur and in wonderment of the many stories that it has seen through the years and will continue to do so for the many years to come in our little island country.
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Fouetté is a beautiful facetted spintop that rests at the desk as a paperweight but twirls akin to the elegance & grace of a ballerina performing a fouetté.

Designed by Desinere, Fouetté (fwah-tay) is meticulously hand crafted by the finest Japanese metal casting craftmen of Nousaku (www.nousaku.co.jp). As each piece is handmade, individual pieces differ slightly and being cast in bronze and brass, colour variation results over time giving each Fouetté piece a unique character and look.
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Akin to the ruffs worn in the Victorian era, *Fraise* is an ornamental paper collar that presents itself with many possibilities, existing as an exquisite planter and tray or simply as a beautifully pleated paper wreath for the festival occasion.

Each *Fraise* collar is carefully handcrafted and features the unique tactile papers from the Curious Matter series by Arjowiggins.
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A bright idea conceived by Singaporean design studios Desinere and Tinge, Lueur is a series of lamps with a quiet ambition to influence the way you look at lighting.

Piecing together two singular yet parallel design sensibilities, the studios conceived a unique mix of minimal yet playful designs. Utilizing premium materials, Lueur is a modern line produced by traditional, artisanal handicraft.

Available in a range of hues from the deeply austere to the ostentatious, each colour exudes a vastly different mood to tailor to different environments. Having said that, the bulk of the collection is celebrated in muted pastels and neon, enhancing Lueur’s contemporary appeal. The use of incongruous materials and colours also reveal its secretly fractious nature.

The result is an enigmatic interpretation that harmonizes ambitious design with an understated subtlety. It doesn’t take away from the surroundings but quietly draws you in with its compelling anatomy and warm glow.
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Ruchette draws its inspiration from the ruffs adorning the collars of couture dresses of the Victorian era and in a similar manner the pleated shade is angled such that it mimics the erect posture of this grand adornment.

The expression of the ruffs is captured in the repeated tessellations of pleating, which is manifested as lamp shade to accentuate its intricate patterns when light falls onto its surface at an angle; creating an interesting contrast between the gradation of shadows and light.

The composition of facets brings to mind that of a cut diamond but is presented in a concave manner that seems somewhat welcoming and yet ostentatious at the same time.
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ROUCHETTE

Ambient Lamp
BESPOKE

Customised gifts items, props installations & visual merchandise
Customised pleated sculptures for Fashion label - Stolen

VISUAL MERCHANDISE
An Installation of paper pleated sculptures for new branch opening at ION

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UNFOLDING BEAUTY

Advertisement campaign for Scotts Square directed by Tofu Design Studio
Things take a turn for the surreal as the lights dim and the temperature dips entering the Chiller Room. Journey into a white sweet-toothed fantasyland, where you admire an edible zen garden and put your head literally up into clouds of beautifully pleated paper sculptures by product designer Melvin Ong. Taste a little piece of heaven as you bite into delectable landscapes created by Chef Janice Wong. Mmmmm.
“HEAVEN”

2am: dessertbar x Desinere
“HEAVEN”

2am dessertbar x Desinere

tofu
BESPOKE

Products & corporate gifts
Pleated paper props for exhibition display under DESINERE
Variation of Monolith tables in bespoke dimensions, depending on requirements
MONOLITH

Variation of Monolith tables in bespoke dimensions, depending on requirements
Customised leather bound thumb drives for press kits

CORPORATE GIFTS
A customised concrete cast phone stand for

The Refinery

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CORPORATE GIFTS
Get in Touch with us

We'll be happy to tell you more about Desinere, our bespoke services, take trade enquiries or even to explore collaborations together.

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