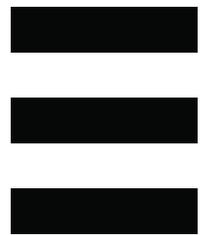




Design Diplomacy: Andreu Carulla and Mikko Laakkonen partner to design Spanish Embassy in Helsinki



Spanish designer **Andreu Carulla** and Finnish designer **Mikko Laakkonen** have teamed up to create a renewed interior for the Spanish Embassy in Helsinki to mark 100 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries in a design and diplomatic first.

The pair met during Helsinki Design Week 2017 during an event titled “Design Diplomacy”, where they held a discussion at Villa Himberg, now the Spanish ambassador’s official residence in Finland (designed by renowned Finnish architect Aarne Evri). Speaking to the designers after the event, ambassador Mr. Manuel de la Camara commissioned Andreu Carulla and Mikko Laakkonen to design a new interior for the embassy to mark 100 years of diplomatic relations between Finland and Spain.

The project started soon after, with the designers going to each other’s respective countries over the following months to research each other’s cultures, meet with manufacturers, and design new collections. With both Finnish and Spanish influences, materials and manufacturing techniques in mind, the resulting work is a bench and sofa manufactured by Made by Choice (Finland) that feature ash wood and traditional latticework, and stools and side tables manufactured by Mobles 114 (Spain) that feature terracotta and cork. These fill the living space at Villa Himberg, the Spanish Embassy in Helsinki. These pieces will be introduced during Helsinki Design Week 2018 and will then be a permanent part of the embassy’s furnishings.





An event to mark the launch of the collection will be hosted by Made by Choice on the island of Lonna in Helsinki (11-15th of September) during this year's design week with a subsequent event in the embassy itself (12th of September) to showcase the objects in the setting they were designed for, alongside an exhibition of framed sketches of the pieces taken from the sketchbook the designers shared during the collaboration.

The collaboration is intended to last two years, in the first year showing the first half of the collection, with more products to complete the collaboration to follow into 2019.

For more information:

<http://www.andreucarulla.com/>

<http://www.mikkolaakkonen.com/>

<http://www.madebychoice.com/>

