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30

living in design

Rossana Orlandi; *first lady of design.* 30 x Icons. Mid-century Modern mecca. *The woman behind Le Corbusier.*



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30 x icons

WHAT IS AN ICON? A place, a person, an object? Thirty global creatives nominate their favourite icon and share their thoughts on what makes it so, and the significant role it plays in our everyday lives.



Kenneth Cobonpue
*Designer, Hive
Cebu, Philippines*

Icon
*Trans World
Airlines (TWA)
Flight Centre
Eero Saarinen
New York City
1962*

My first encounter with this architectural gem was more than 20 years ago when I had to check in for a flight to Paris. I still remember how breathtaking it was to be in this space made of ribbons of elements, all whisking themselves in from the exterior, so that ceilings continuously run into walls and those walls become floors.

When Saarinen was commissioned in 1956, the client wanted this building to capture the 'spirit of flight', so the architect used curves to create spaces that flowed into one another. Even today, I can vividly remember every arc and line coming together to form this massive and timeless bird-like structure.

The TWA Flight Centre represents a moment of optimism and ambition in the American economy and in architectural history, as well as a creative fusion of engineering and architecture. Just a few months ago, I was glad to learn that this structure will now be converted to a 505-room LEED-certified hotel – proof that a timeless structure will always find a purpose.



Colin Seah
*Architect, Ministry
of Design
Singapore*

Icon
*Therme Vals
Peter Zumthor
Graubünden,
Switzerland
1996*

These thermal baths transformed the way I had always perceived architecture and opened up more possibilities on how to approach it. Before, I was interested in architecture as 'a manifestation of conceptual thought', where the idea was more essential than the outcome.

After visiting the baths, I discovered architecture that surpassed the intellect. Architecture could be 'pure experience', engaging the body and senses, phenomenologically grounded, eliciting a response that was almost primal.