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Eesti Tarbekunsti- ja
Disainimuuseum
Estonian Museum of
Applied Art and Design

**BRUNO
TOMBERG**

**DISAINI
LEUVUTAMINE
INVENTION
OF DESIGN**

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BRUNO TOMBERG DISAINI LEIUTAMINE

Bruno Tomberg oli sisearhitekt, disainer, kunstnik ja pedagoog, disainivaldkonna eestkõneleja Eestis selle intensiivse kujunemise ajal 1960. aastate algusest. Tema loomingulise, pedagoogilise ja korraldusliku tegevuse kaudu avaldub Eesti tarbekunsti ja disaini arenemise lugu.

Riikliku kunstiinstituudi juures Tombergi juhtimisel 1966. aastal avatud tööstuskunsti erialal hakati andma disainiharidust. Õppekava ülesehitamise käigus tegeles Tomberg disaini mõistele sisu loomisega, valdkonna suunamise ja arendamisega, tutvustades nii selle mineviku eripärasid kui ka tulevikuperspektiive. Tuues käibele uut infot ja kontseptsioone, tutvustades oskussõnavara, juhtis Tomberg tarbekunstil põhineva eriala kujunemist tööstuskunstiks ja disainiks. Nagu ta ise rõhutas, olid eriala arenguks nii sisulised kui ka vormilised võimalused erakordsest napid, pigem juhuslikud. Seda enam oli väärtsuslik tema katkematu ambitsioon sellest süsteemseid teadmisi luua ning tulemused, millele toetudes areneb eriala tänaseni.

Instituudile pühendatud 61 aasta välitel pidas Tomberg oma kohuseks töestada disaini potentsiaali ja disainerite vajalikkust. Tänu tema juhtimisel loodud õppekavale oli peagi tunda suuremat huvi ümbritseva keskkonna ning selle tervikliku kujundamise ja meetodite vastu laiemalt. See oli edasilikumine senisele tootekujundusele omaselt esemekeskuselt ja oluliselt laiem vaade kujundamise võimalustele.

Vähem on teada Tombergi kui kunstniku ja kujundaja, aga ka disaini mõtestaja ja info vahendaja panus. Oma eluajal liikus ta sujuvalt mitme eriala vahel, kavandades mööblit, keraamikat, valgusteid, nahast ja metallist esemeid, kangaid ja vaipu. Ta tegeles ka graafilise disainiga ning lõi sisearhitektuurilahendusi ja näitusekujundusi. Tema didaktilised ja praktilised nõuanded kodu- ja esemekujunduse teemadel ilmusid peamiselt 1960. aastatel ka ajakirjanduses. Muu

BRUNO TOMBERG INVENTING DESIGN

Bruno Tomberg is an interior architect, designer, artist and educator, recognised as a leading voice in Estonian design during its intense development from the early 1960s onward. Through his creative, pedagogical and administrative activities, he embodies the story of Estonian applied art and design.

Design education in Estonia began with the establishment of the industrial art programme at the State Art Institute in 1966. During the curriculum's development, Tomberg was instrumental in creating content for the field, defining the concept of design, and guiding the discipline's direction and growth while introducing both historical nuances and future perspectives. By incorporating new information and conceptual frameworks, as well as introducing specialist vocabulary, Tomberg led the transformation of this new field, which was originally rooted in applied art, into industrial art and design. As Tomberg pointed out himself, the conceptual and formal opportunities for the field's development were remarkably limited at that time, often arising only by chance. His unwavering ambition to generate a systematic body of knowledge was particularly valuable in this context.

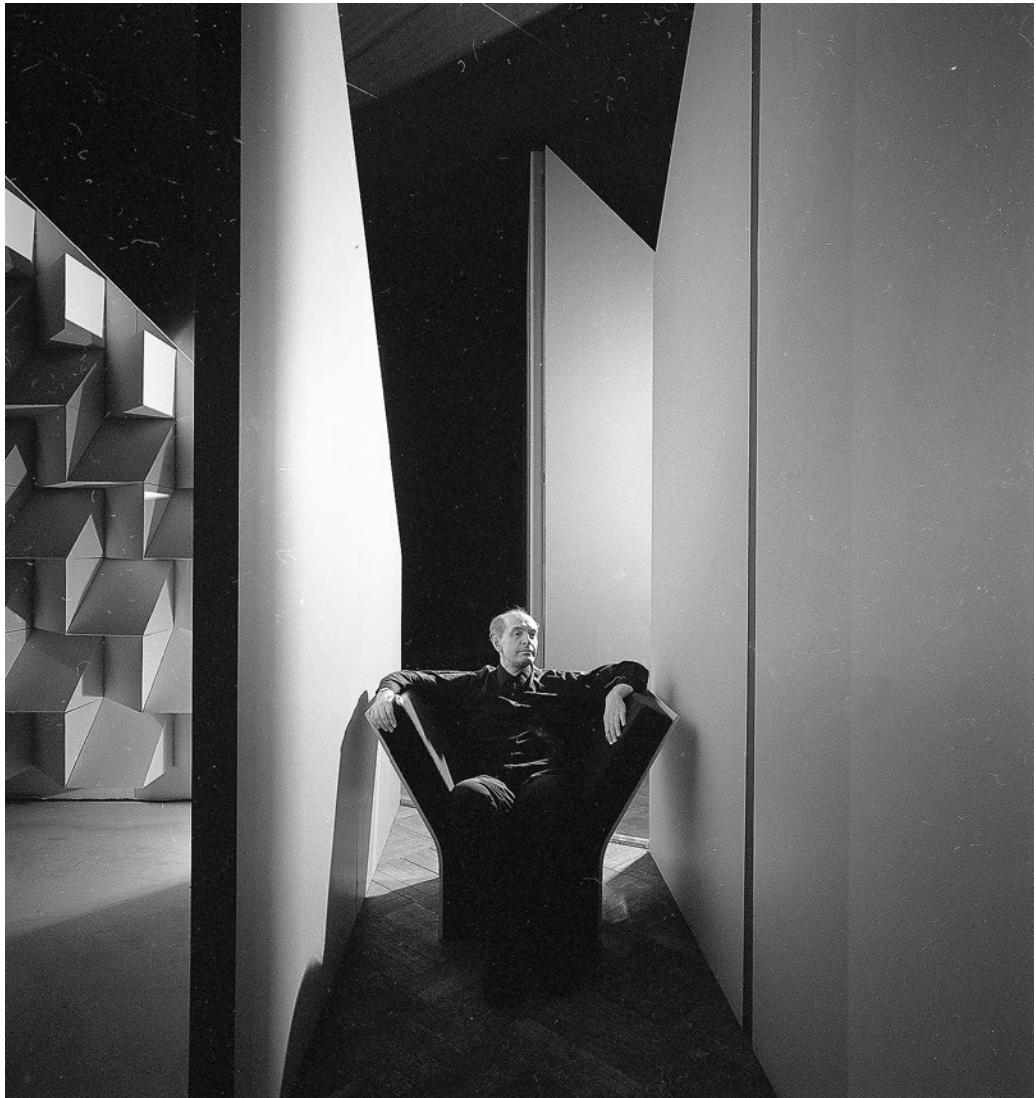
During the 61 years devoted to the institute Tomberg constantly gathered and provided information, considering it his duty to demonstrate the potential of the design field and the necessity of designers being trained professionals. Thanks to the curriculum developed under Tomberg's leadership, there was soon a heightened interest in how comprehensive design and methodologies could be applied to the built environment. This marked a shift from the previously object-centred approach of product design to a significantly broader perspective on design possibilities.

While Tomberg is well-known as a foundational figure in Estonian design education, his contributions as an artist and designer, as well as a thinker on design, are less recognised. Throughout his life, Tomberg adeptly navigated multiple disciplines, designing furniture, ceramics, lighting, leather and metal items, textiles,





Bruno Tomberg oma kodus, 1964. Foto Armin Alla. ERRI arhiiv
Bruno Tomberg in his home, 1964. Photo Armin Alla. ERR Archive



Bruno Tomberg näitusel "Ruum ja Vorm" II. 1972. Foto Boris Mäemets

Bruno Tomberg at the exhibition "Ruum ja Vorm" (Space and Form) II. 1972. Photo Boris Mäemets

hulgas publitseeriti mitmeid tema kujundusi isetegemist võimaldavate joonistena, millest mõned näited on valminud ka siinsele näitusele. Loomingu eri kihtides olid talle omased abstraktsus, geomeetrilisus ja modulaarsus. Mitmeid sarnaseid kujundeid rakendas ta erinevates väljundites. Erilise fooni lõid Tombergi loomingule mitmed omas ajas eksootilised reisid.

Tomberg hakkas näitustel osalema pärast kooli lõpetamist 1950. aastal ja kokku ulatus osalemiste arv ligi 150 näituseni. Bruno Tombergi ainus isikunäitus toimus 1995. aastal siinsamas ruumis, toonases tarbekunsti-muuseumis, ja selle retrospektiivse kokku-võtte koostajaks oli ta ise.

Tomberg oskas hinnata ajalugu ja sellesse jäetavaid jälgi. 2010. aastal kinkis ta oma isikuarhiivi Eesti Tarbekunsti- ja Disainimuuseumile. Suuresti tänu selles sisalduvale materjalile ja lisauurimistöölle on võimalik ka käesolev näitus, mis jaguneb üheksaks alapeatükiks. Nii mahuka ülevaatena Bruno Tombergi tööst, kujundustest ja mõtetest on see näitus esmakordne. Ka hulk eksponeeritavat materjali jõuab vaatajani siin esimest korda.

and carpets. He also engaged in graphic design and created interior architecture solutions and exhibition designs. His didactic, practical advice on home and object design primarily appeared in the media during the 1960s. Among other works, several of his designs were published as DIY instructions, and some of the objects included in this exhibition are based on those drawings. The various layers of Tomberg's creative legacy embody abstraction, geometrical form and modularity, with a number of more specific shapes recurring across different areas of his work. Tomberg was unusually travelled for the time, another factor that enriched his work.

Tomberg began exhibiting after graduating in 1950 and, over his career, participated in nearly 150 exhibitions. His only solo exhibition, which he curated himself, was a 1995 retrospective held in this very space, then part of the Estonian Museum of Applied Art.

Tomberg had a profound appreciation for history and the marks it leaves behind. In 2010, he donated his personal archive to the Estonian Museum of Applied Art and Design, and it is thanks to those materials, alongside further research, that this exhibition, divided into nine sections, was made possible. As a comprehensive overview of Bruno Tomberg's work, designs and ideas, this exhibition is unprecedented, and much of the material on display is presented to the public for the first time.



KUNSTIARMASTUS

Bruno Tomberg on nimetanud enda kunsti juurde toojaks ja esmaseks möjutajaks oma kaubandustöötajast isa, kelle lõuendi kõrval pojina seistes oli ta tunnistajaks sellele, kuidas olematusest tekib ime. Juba siis tekkis tal soov ka ise loojaks saada.

Tomberg lõpetas 1944. aastal Nõmme Gümnaasiumi, kus kunstiõpetajaks oli Pallases Konrad Mäe ja Ado Vabbe õpilasena tudeerinud ning Berliinis ja Pariisis stipendiaadina end täiendanud Ardo Sivadi. Tema juhendamisel tegeles Tomberg kunstiga juba gümnaasiumis ning pärvis õpetaja siira heakskiidu. Tombergi säilinud klassikalist kunsti- ja arhitektuuripärandit kujutavad tööd on saanud eranditult kõrgeima hinde ning annavad tunnistust tema heast silmast ja käest.

Hilisemate, juba ülikooliaegsete eeskujudena on ta nimetanud Edgar Johan Kuusikut ja Adamson-Ericut. Sel ajal õppis ta maalimist Johannes Greenbergi juures ja omandas meisterliku akvarellitehnika, mille praktiline väärthus seisnes muu hulgas erilases väljundis – selles tehnikas vormistati tollal kõik projektid.

Silmapaistvale joonistamis- ja akvarelli- oskusele tugines ka Tombergi esimene töö. Professor Kuusik usaldas talle juba õpingute ajal, 1949. aastal, katedri assistendi ameti, millega seoses sai Tombergi üheks peamiseks ülesandeks projektgraafika juhendamine. Samas tehnikas valmis ka ta lõputöö, ENSV Riikliku Raamatukogu sisekujundus, mis koosnes 12 planšetist.

Tallinna Riikliku Tarbekunsti Instituudi ruumikujunduse eriala õpingute ajal oli stuudiumi osaks ka etnograafiapraktika, mille käigus toimusid väljasöidud otse ajalooliste keskkondade ja hoonete juurde. Vabaõhu-muuseumis on säilinud valik selliste sõitude käigus valminud jooniseid ja akvarelli Muhu, Kihnu ja Hiiumaa mööblist ning hoonetest. Ka paar aastat hilisemad akvarellid Ruhnu maastike ja hooneteega peegeldavad autori selget naudingut püüda keskkondi hetkedena miniatuursetesse maalidesse.

LOVE OF ART

Bruno Tomberg has referred to his father, for whom painting was a hobby as the primary influence and inspiration for pursuing an artistic path. As a boy, standing beside his father's canvas, Tomberg observed the miracle of creation emerging from nothingness. This experience sparked his desire to become a creator of wonders himself.

Tomberg graduated from Nõmme High School in 1944, where his art teacher was Ardo Sivadi, a student of Konrad Mägi and Ado Vabbe from the Pallas art school, who had furthered his studies in Berlin and Paris on a scholarship. Under Sivadi's guidance, Tomberg engaged extensively with art during high school and earned the teacher's sincere approval. The works that survive from his student days, which depict classical art and architectural heritage, consistently received the highest marks, attesting to his keen eye and skilled hand.

Tomberg cites Edgar Johan Kuusik and Adamson-Eric as influences during his university years. During that time, he studied painting under Johannes Greenberg, mastering watercolour techniques that proved highly practical in his professional field, where all projects were rendered in this medium.

Tomberg's outstanding drawing and watercolour skills were an important aspect of his first job. In 1949, while still a student, Professor Kuusik entrusted him with the position of assistant in the department, where one of Tomberg's primary responsibilities was supervising project graphics. His own graduation project, the interior design of the Estonian SSR State Library, consisting of twelve panels, was made using the same technique.

During Tomberg's studies in interior design at the Tallinn State Institute of Applied Arts, ethnographic practice was an integral part of the curriculum, involving field trips directly related to the subject matter. A few years later, watercolours of the landscapes and buildings of Ruhnu reflect the obvious enjoyment the artist took in capturing environments as fleeting moments in miniature paintings.

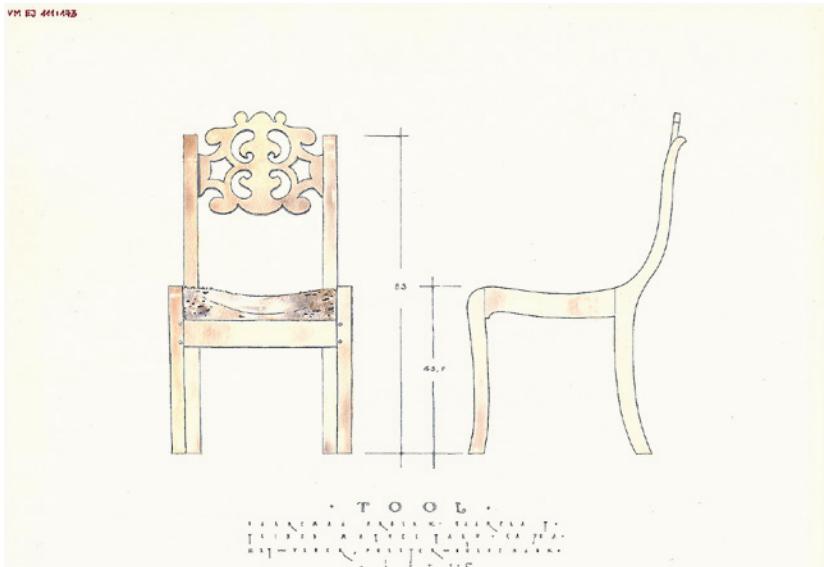


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PEEKRA TARE CA JÄRVA

Rehemaja. Pliiats. 1947. Eesti Vabaõhumuuseum
Old house. Pencil. 1947. Estonian Open Air Museum



Tool. Tuš, akvarell. 1947. Eesti Vabaõhumuuseum
Chair. Ink, watercolour. 1947. Estonian Open Air Museum

Kui Tomberg 1950. aastal instituudi lõpetas, käis kujundamine selgelt konstrueeritud laadis. Sellesse aega jäävad mitmed interjörökujundused, nagu kavandid Moskva Kirjanike Maja lasteaiale, Kohtla-Nõmme kaevurite klubi sisekujundus Maimu Pleesi ja Maia Lauluga, mööbel Karjala Soome ANSV Draamateatri hoonele Pertozavodskis, millest kahjuks materjale pole säilinud. 1950. aastal valmistati juba ette peagi avanevat Rahvamajanduse Saavutuste Näitust (VDNH). Tomberg kaasati kohe lõpetamise järel Moskvas toimuva Üleliidulise Pöllumajandusnäituse ENSV paviljoni projekteerimisprotsessi kursusekaaslaste Maia Oseleinini (hiljem Laul), Maimu Pleesi ja teistega.

1952. aastal kavandas Tomberg Moskva Kremlti palee Georgi saali valge kontsertklaveri koos selle juurde kuuluva pingi ning metallidetailidega. 1950. aastate teisel poolel valmisid rahvuslike motiividega mööblit komplekt Tallinna Õpetajate Majja (1957), valik valdavalt traditsionalistlikku mööblit eksponeerimiseks 1956. aastal Moskvas toimunud ENSV Kunstidekaadi näitusel. Edgar Velbri poolt Türgi kirjanikule Nazim Hikmetile kavandatud elutoamööbli komplektile kavandas Tomberg kapi ja laua.

When Tomberg graduated from the institute in 1950, design was characterised by a clearly structured approach. He created several interior designs during this period, such as drafts for a kindergarten at the Moscow Writers' House, the interior design of the Kohtla-Nõmme Miners' Club in collaboration with Maimu Plees and Maia Laul, and furniture for the Karelian ASSR Finnish Drama Theatre in Petrozavodsk, although unfortunately, no materials from this project have survived. In 1950, preparations were already underway for the 1952 Exhibition of Achievements of National Economy (VDNKh). Immediately after graduation, Tomberg was involved in the design process for the Estonian SSR pavilion at the All-Union Agricultural Exhibition in Moscow, working alongside Maia Oselein and others.

In 1952, Tomberg designed a white concert grand piano, along with a matching bench featuring metal details, for the Georgievsky Hall in the Grand Kremlin Palace. During the second half of the 1950s, he created a furniture set featuring national motifs for the Tallinn Teachers' House (1957) and a selection of predominantly traditional furniture for the Estonian SSR Art Decade Exhibition in Moscow in 1956. He also designed the cabinet and table for a living room furniture set commissioned by the Turkish writer Nazim Hikmet, designed by Edgar Velbri.





Kontsertklaver Moskva Kremlti Suure Palee Vladimiri saali. 1952

Concert piano in the Vladimir Hall of the Grand Palace of the Kremlin in Moscow. 1952



Rahvuspärase unikaalmööbel (maalitud portselanist lauaplaadi autor Elgi Reemets), 1956
Furniture set with national motifs (painted porcelain table top by Elgi Reemets), 1956

DISAINER

Bruno Tombergi panus disainiõppesse on hästi teada. Vähem on tuntud tema loomin-guline pärand, eriti disainerina. Ometi on tema haare olnud muljetavalだ. Valdav osa Tombergi kujundajatööst leidis aset 1960. aastatest 1970. aastate keskpaigani. Peale instituudi lõpetamist suunati noor kunstnik ajale omaselt mõnda vabariigi ettevõttesse tööle. Tombergi viis suunamine V. Kingissepa nimelisse Paberi- ja Tseluloosi kombinaati, kus tema ülesandeks sai aastatel 1950–1951 tapeetide kujundamine. 1950. aastate alguses kavandas ta ka koos kursusekaaslaste Maia Laulu ja Maimu Pleesiga tüüpvalgusteid tehasele Alba ning mööblit Tallinna Kalinin rajooni ning Tartu tööstuskombinaatidele.

Kahe instituudis õpetamise perioodi vah-epeal, aastatel 1956–1964, töötas Tomberg kunstitoodete kombinaadi kujundustööde ateljees, kavandades nii näitusi kui ka interjööre, aga ka mööblit ja erinevast materjalist esemeid. Samuti kujundas ta mitmeid ajakirju ja kirjutas perioodikasse nõuanandeartikleid kaasaegse kodu- ja mööblikujunduse kohta. Ilmus mitmeid tema kavandatud mööblijooniseid ise kodusel teel valmistamiseks.

Eksperimentaalsusele keskendunud näituskesarjas "Ruum ja vorm" eksponeeritud esemeid toodeti väikesemahuliste seeriataena kunstitoodete kombinaadis. Tomberg on 1960. aastatel kavandanud ka mitu vaskse kupliga rippvalgustit. 1974. aastal hakati Voltas tootma tapeetide kõrvval Tombergi üht vähest tööstusdisaini näidet, elektriradiaatorit Termo, mille tootmisarv ulatus 500 000ni.

1990. aastatel nautis ta kavandamist, mis jäi suuresti ettevalmistavasse faasi, valmisid mõned paekivist nõude ja puidust suveniiride prototüübidi. Suurema tööna realiseerusid 1995. aasta personaalnäituseks massiivne puidust kapp "Kogujale", suur ümmargune laud ja taburettide komplekt.

Tombergi kujunduskeel on modernismile omaselt selge ja sirge, põhinedes sageli modulaarsuseל, diagonaalidel ja nende ristumisel tekkivatel pindadel.



DESIGNER

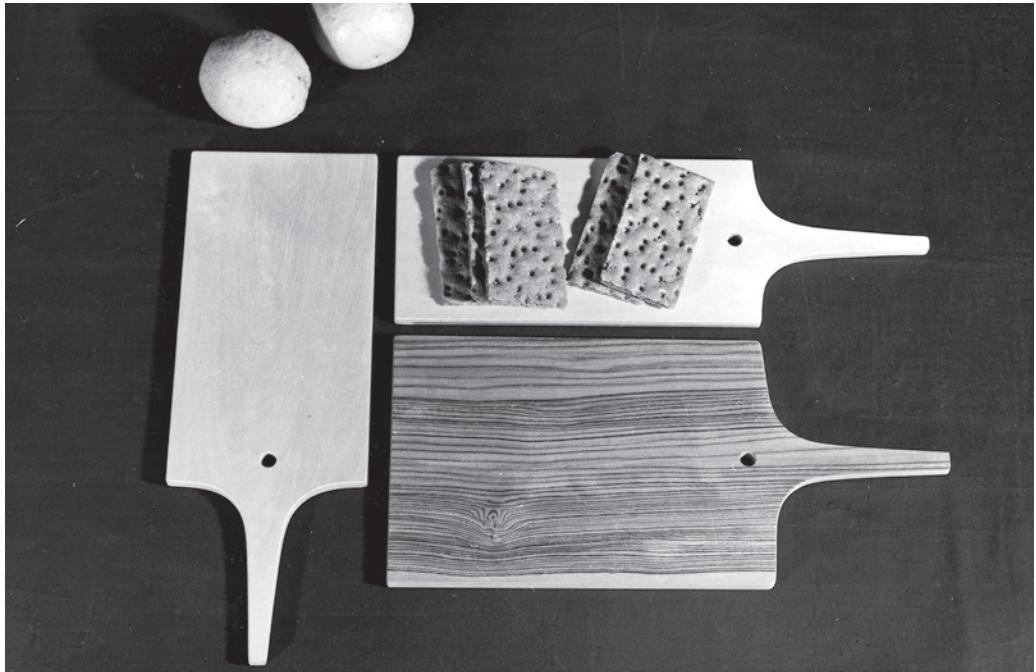
While Bruno Tomberg's contribution to design education is well-known, his creative legacy as a designer is less recognised. Nevertheless, his impact has been impressive. Most of Tomberg's work as a designer took place between the 1960s and the mid-1970s. Typically, in that era, after graduating from the art institute, young artists were assigned to work in various enterprises across the republic. Tomberg's assignment was at the V. Kingissepa Paper and Pulp Factory, where he was responsible for designing wallpapers from 1950 to 1951. In the early 1950s, he also collaborated with his classmates Maia Laul and Maimu Plees to design standard light fixtures for the Alba factory and furniture for the Tallinn Kalinin District and Tartu industrial combines.

During the gap between his two teaching periods at the State Art Institute, from 1956 to 1964, Tomberg worked in the design studio of the Art Products Factory, where he designed exhibitions, interiors, furniture and various items made from different materials. He also designed several magazines and wrote instructional articles on modern home and furniture design for periodicals. Several of his furniture designs were published as drawings that could be used to build the items at home.

Items showcased in the exhibition series "Space and Form", which focused on experimentation, were produced in small series. In the 1960s, Tomberg also designed several pendant lights with brass shades. In 1974, Volta began producing one of Tomberg's few industrial designs, the electric radiator Termo, with production numbers reaching 500,000 units.

In the 1990s, he continued to enjoy designing. He created prototypes of limestone dishes and wooden souvenirs. However, most of the work from this period remained in the preparatory phase. Significant items created for his personal exhibition in 1995 were the massive wooden cabinet titled "For the Collector", a large round table and a set of stools.

Tomberg's design language is characterised by a clear and straightforward modernism, often based on modularity, diagonals and the surfaces formed by their intersections.



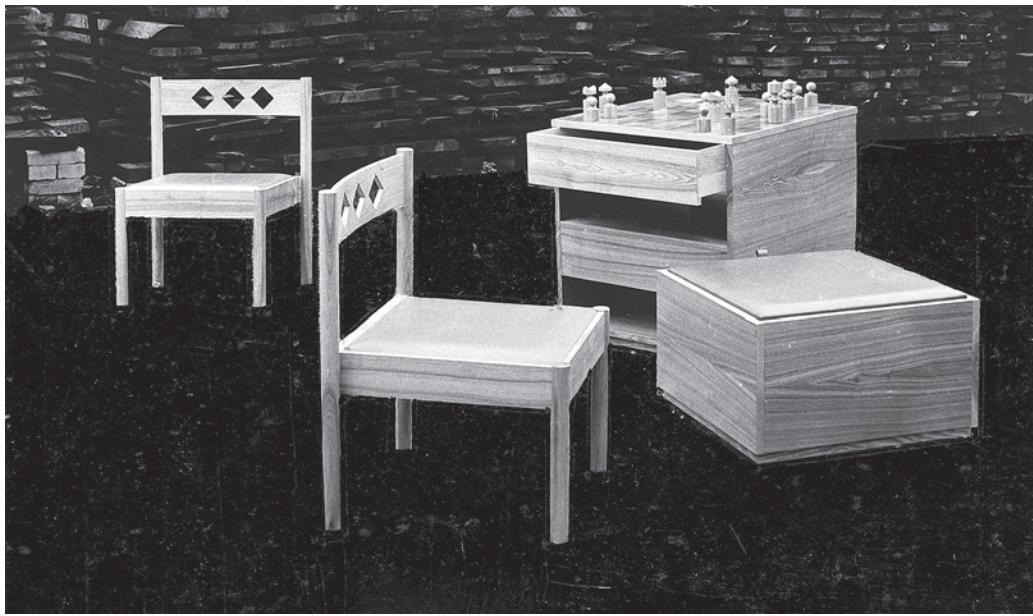
Serveerimisalused. 1960. aastate algus
Serving boards. Early 1960s



Küünjalad. 1967. Foto Boris Mäermets
Candlesticks. 1967. Photo Boris Mäermets



Elutoamööbel. 1959–1960, eksponeeritud Balti liiduvabariikide 20. aastapäeva näitusel Moskvas. Repro.
Living room furniture. 1959–1960, exhibited at the 20th Anniversary Exhibition of the Soviet Baltic Republics in Moscow. Reproduction



Mööblisari "Male", 1965. Kunstitoodete Kombinaadi väikeserieratoode.
Furniture series "Chess". 1965. Small series product of the Art Products Factory.
Foto / Photo Boris Mäemets



Mööbel ja põrandalvalgusti 1964. aasta vabariiklikul mööblinäitusel Näituste väljakul
Furniture and floor lamp at the 1964 State Furniture Exhibition at the Exhibition Square



Õliradiaator Termo. 1974. Tootja tehas Volta
Oil heater Termo. 1974. Producer Volta Factory

Kui Tombergi esimene võimalus ruumi-kujundustööd teha oli osalemine Moskvas toimunud Üleliidulisel Pöllumajandusnäituse ENSV paviljoni siskujunduse kavandamise meeskonnas 1950. aastal, siis üks esimesi iseseisvaid interjöörilahendusi oli vastutusrikas Loomingulistile Liitude Klubi (tuntud kui Kuku klubi) sisekujundus 1957. aastast. Aimatav rahvuslik joon oli puhastatud kaasaegseks keskkonnaks. Sellele järgnesid mitmed teised avaliku ruumi projektid, 1958. aastal lausa neli objekti: hotell Viljandi, Pärnu sanatoorium Estonia, Tallinna Moemaja ja hotell Palace'i ruumid.

Enamgi veel oli Tombergil kogemust näitusekujundustega. Tema erihuviks kujunesid esemerohked tarbekunsti- ja etnograafianäitused. Tombergi juhtimisel on kujundatud suurem osa 1960. aastate tarbekunstnäitusi. Kui esialgu oli ta kujundajaks üksi, siis suuremate projektide puuhul usaldas ta ka nooremaid kollege, andes võimalusi nii Mait Summatavile kui ka Taevo Gansile, kellest mölemad töötasid hiljem vastutusrikaste näitusekujundustega nii koos kui eraldi.

Tombergil oli suurepärane oskus ruumi lihtsate ja mõjusate võtete, modulaarsuse printsibi ning horisontaal- ja vertikaalpindade abil liigendada, tuues osavalt esile ühtaegu esemete paljususe ja ainukordsuse.

Ühtlasi andis näituste kujundamine võimaluse reisimiseks. See töö viis Tombergi rohketele lähetustele lähiregioonis, lisaks Moskvale ja Leningradile nii Soome kui ka Kesk- ja Ida-Euroopasse.

Tomberg's first opportunity to engage in interior design came when he joined the design team for the Estonian SSR pavilion at the 1950 All-Union Agricultural Exhibition in Moscow. One of his earliest independent interior designs was for the Estonian Creative Associations Club (known as the Kuku Club), a prestigious commission he received in 1957. Subtle national elements were refined into a modern environment. This was followed by several other public space projects, including four in 1958: the Viljandi Hotel, the Estonia Sanatorium in Pärnu, the Tallinn Fashion House and the interiors of the Palace Hotel in Tallinn.

Tomberg also gained extensive experience in exhibition design, with applied art and ethnography displays rich in objects becoming his particular speciality. He was responsible for designing the majority of applied art exhibitions in Estonia during the 1960s. Initially, he worked solo, but for larger projects, he also engaged younger colleagues, providing opportunities for both Mait Summatavet and Taevo Gans, for example, who later worked on significant exhibition designs both collaboratively and independently.

Tomberg possessed an exceptional ability to organise space using simple yet effective techniques, the principle of modularity, and the interplay of horizontal and vertical surfaces, skilfully highlighting both the diversity and uniqueness of the objects on display.

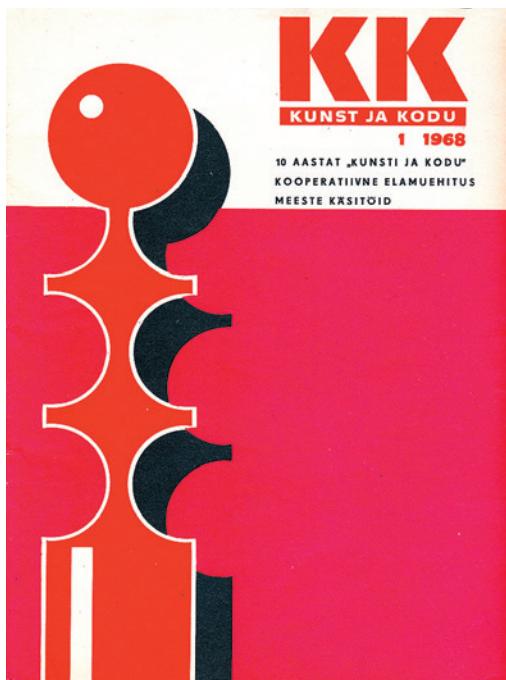
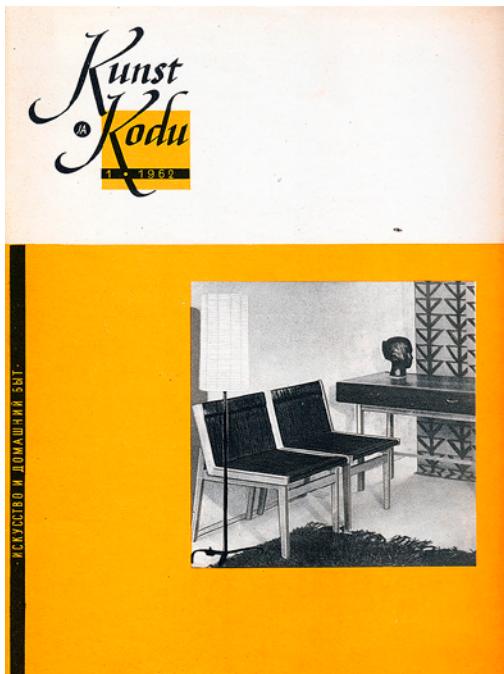
Exhibition design also offered him opportunities to travel. This work led Tomberg on numerous assignments, particularly in nearby regions, as well as to Moscow, Leningrad, Finland, and Central and Eastern Europe.



Hotelli Palace vestibüül. 1958
Hotel Palace lobby. 1958

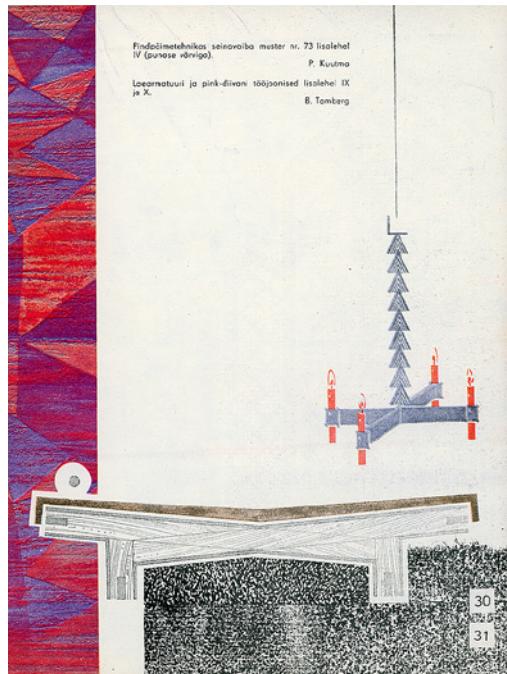
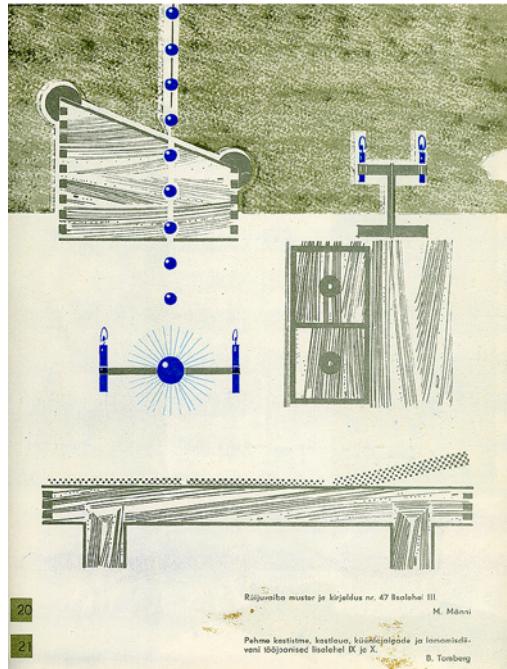
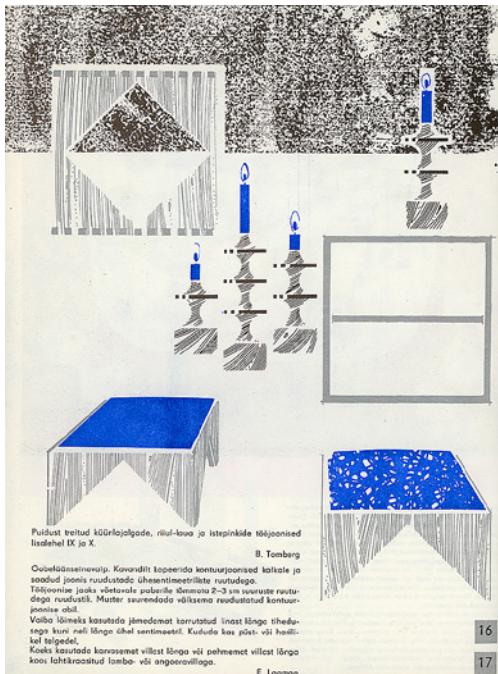
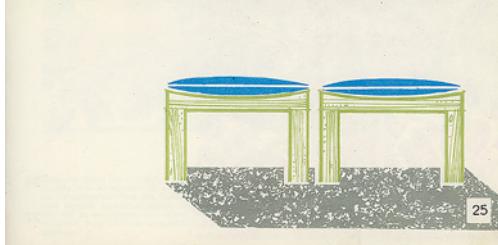
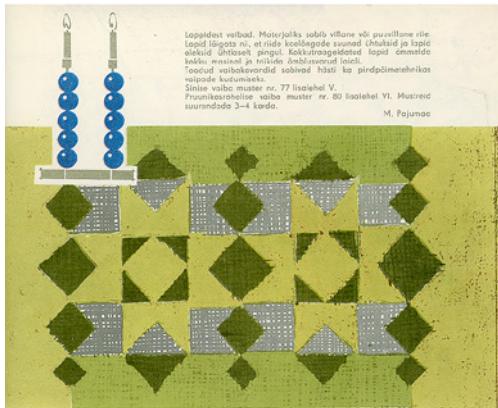


ENSV tarbekunstinäitus Leningradis. 1963
Applied Art exhibition of the Estonian SSR in Leningrad. 1963



16

Almanahhide "Kunst ja Kodu" ning ajakirja "Käsítööalbum" (1967) kaanekujundused
Cover designs for the almanac "Kunst ja Kodu" (Art and Home) and Käsítööalbum
(Craft Album) (1967)



11

Bruno Tombergi kujundatud ajakirja Käsitööalbum (1967) leheküljed tema mööbli- ja
esemejoonistega

Pages and drawings for furniture and other objects designed by Bruno Tomberg for the
magazine Käsitööalbum (Craft Album), 1967

Tombergi läbi elu kestnud pedagoogitöö sai alguse 1949. aastal, kui professor E. J. Kuusik usaldas talle ruumikujunduse kateedris assistendi rolli. Seal kujunes tema peamiseks ülesandeks projektigraafika juhendamine, kuna tal oli silmapaistvalt hea joonistamis- ja akvarellimaalimise oskus. Hiljem sai Tomberg ülesandeks ka Kuusiku enda üleinstituudiliste üldkompositiooni loengute assisteerimine.

Öppetöös tehtud muudatused nägid ette arhitektuuri öppetooli ületöomise Tallinna Polütehnilisest Instituudist. Sellega seoses suleti ajutiselt ruumi- ja mööblikujunduse kateeder ja Tombergi töökoht likvideeriti. Ruumikujunduse eriala taastati osakonnana 1964. aastal ning siis liitus Tomberg taas kooliga, et peamiselt juhendada diplomitöid.

Elumuutev võimalus avanes mõne aasta pärast. 1966. aastal tegi õppeprorektor Peeter Tarvas just Tombergile ettepaneku asuda tegelema tööstuskunsti õppे väljatöötamise ja kateedri komplekteerimisega. Selleks ajaks oli ta töestanud end visionäriomadustega võimeka noore pedagoogina. 1959. aastast kunstniku liidu loomingulise sektori juhatajana oli ta ka silma paistnud suurepäraste organisatoorseste oskustega ja kirgliku suhtumisega eriala seni rakendamata potentsiaali. See oli esimene kateeder, mis tälesti uuenia instituudi koosseisu loodi. Seega oli tegu ka omamoodi eksperimentidiga. Kateedri avamisele eelnes tutvumine tööga teistes kõrgkoolides Moskvas, Leningradis, Vilniuses, Minskis, Thbilisis, kus sama suunitlus ja vastavad õppetoolid olid juba olemas.

Ülieliiduline programm, millele õppé ülesehitusel tuli tugineda, oli skemaatiline ega avanud üksikute õppenaineid konkreetset struktuuri, jätkes nii oma abstraktsuses uue loomisel vabad käed lähtuda kohalikest oludest. Kuna ainete õpetamisel siduvaid traditsioone polnud, oli tegu sisuliselt uue eriala lelutamisega.

Esimene kursus alustas juba sama aasta sügissemestril. 1968. aastal, kui oli vastu võetud kolme kursuse jagu tudengeid,

Tomberg's lifelong pedagogical career began in 1949 when Professor E. J. Kuusik entrusted him with the role of assistant in the interior design department. His primary responsibility was to supervise project graphics, where he could apply his outstanding skills in drawing and watercolour painting. Later, he was also assigned to assist Kuusik with the institute-wide general lectures on composition.

Changes in the curriculum included transferring the architecture department from the Tallinn Polytechnic Institute to the State Art Institute. As a consequence of this, the spatial and furniture design department was temporarily closed, and Tomberg's position was eliminated. When the interior design programme was restored as a department in 1964, Tomberg rejoined the institute, primarily to supervise diploma theses.

A transformative opportunity arose a few years later. In 1966, the academic vice-rector, Peeter Tarvas, proposed that Tomberg take on the task of assembling the department and developing the curriculum for industrial art. By then, Tomberg had established himself as a capable young educator with visionary qualities. Since 1959, as the head of the creative sector of the Artists' Association, he had also demonstrated excellent organisational skills and a passion for the untapped potential of the field. This was the first department created entirely anew within the institute, making it a kind of experiment. Hence, before the department was established, Tomberg quickly familiarised himself with similar programmes in other higher education institutions in Moscow, Leningrad, Vilnius, Minsk and Tbilisi, where departments with comparable aspirations already existed.

The all-Union programme that was to serve as the basis for the curriculum was abstract and schematic; it did not provide a concrete structure for individual subjects, leaving ample freedom to derive new content from the local situation or tradition. Since there were no established principles governing how the relevant subjects were taught, this essentially involved the invention of a new field.

The first cohort of students began their studies in the autumn semester of 1966. In



ENSV Riikliku Kunstiinstituudi tööstuskunstiosakonna õppeljõud, 1982
Staff of the State Art Institute's Industrial Art department. 1982



Tööstuskunsti osakonna esimene asukoht hoones Ūlepruuli tn. Foto Vello Liiv
The first location of the Faculty of Industrial Art, Ülepruuli Str. Photo Vello Liiv

formeeriti kateeder instituudis iseseisva nimetuse ja koosseisuga üksusena. Disainikatedri nime sai osakond alles 1989. aastal.

Tomberg on tööstuskunstnik ettevalmistamist nimetanud ajastu nöudeks. See oli aeg, mil tööstuses oli juba sadu kunstnikke kes olid saanud ettevalmistuse ühel kitsal erialal ent kellel puudus oskus tööstuses hakkama saada. Samal ajal hakati vahet tegema tarbekunstil ja tööstustarbekunstil ning arutelud tööstusliku tarbekunsti suundumustest, eripäradest ja vastutusest muutusid aina intensiivsemaks.

Sellest ajast oli Tombergi enda ülesanneteks pidev loengute andmine ning projekteerimise õpetamine kõigil kursustel esimesest kuuendani, tootmispraktikate juhendamine, maalimise arhitektoonika ning värvusteooria kursused. Tombergi mõju oli veel ulatuslikum – ta juhendas kokku 62 lõputööd.

Eriala ülesehitamine tähendas intensiivset teoreetilise materjali otsimist ja tölkimist. Kümme aastat pärast osakonna algust oli Tomberg juba varustatud mitmete oluliste teoreetikute ideedega. Lisaks Nõukogude Liidu esindajatele toetus ta disainist köneleades ja sellele rahvusvahelist mõödet andes nii Walter Gropiuse, ICSIDi Moskva konverentsil osalenud Tomás Maldonado kui ka Victor Papanekki ideedele ja mõtetele.

Tööstuskunsti osakond võttis kujuneval disainimaastikul kiiresti eestkõneleja rolli. Koolis tehtu leidis laialdast ja süvitsi kajastust, seda eriti vörreldes valdkonna ülejäänuud tegevusega. Instituudist sai koht, kust disaini arengut kõige kesksemalt suunati. Just tööstuskunsti katedri poolt initsieerituna toimusid mitmed konverentsid ja arutelud, ilmusid artiklid ja vestlusringid ajakirjanduses. Ehkki VNIITE (s.o Üleliidulise Tehnilise Esteetika Teadusliku Uurimise Instituuti) tegevus ei ulatunud kunagi Eestisse, (Baltimaades avati instituudi filiaal vaid Vilniuses), tegeleti tööstuskunsti osakonnas sarnaste teemadega ning lõputööde temaatilised valikud on lähedased VNIITE kaudu tuntud ambitsoonidele, ulatudes lisaks

1968, after three cohorts had been admitted, the department was established as an independent unit within the institute, with its own name and faculty. Originally named the Industrial Art Department, it was only in 1989 that the department adopted the name "Design Department" in 1989. In 1994, the curriculum was reorganised, and the Design Department was split into two profiles: product design and graphic design.

Tomberg advocated a professional education for industrial artists as a requirement of the time. At the time, hundreds of artists were already actively engaged in industrial production, and their training was typically highly specialised. What became evident, however, was that they lacked the preparation necessary for working in industry. At the same time, a distinction began to emerge between applied art and industrial applied art, and discussions about the trends, specifics and responsibilities of industrial applied art became increasingly intense.

From that time on, Tomberg's responsibilities included giving continuous lectures and teaching design across all years from the first to the sixth, supervising production workshops, and teaching courses on painting, architectonics and colour theory. Tomberg's influence extended even beyond that: he supervised a total of 62 diploma theses.

Building the programme involved intensive research and translation of materials. Ten years after the department's inception, Tomberg's teaching had come to reflect the ideas of a number of theorists. In addition to representatives from the Soviet Union, he drew on the ideas of Gropius, Tomás Maldonado, who attended the ICSID conference in Moscow and held leftist views, and Victor Papanek. This lent an international dimension to his discussions about design.

The industrial art department quickly assumed the role of an advocate in the evolving design landscape. The work done at the institute received widespread and in-depth coverage, especially in comparison to other activities in the field. The institute became a focal point for steering the development of design. Under the initiative of the industrial art department, conferences and discussions were organised, and articles and panel discussions appeared in the press. Extending beyond object-centred

esemekesksetele lahendustele töökeskkonna, tehniliste seadmete jms-ni.

Disainikatededrit esitleti ka tavatult brändituna. Seoses kutsega vabariiklike tööstuskunstnäitusele 1969. aastal võeti eriala esimese näituse jaoks kasutusele nimetus ERKIDISAIN. Sellega vastanduti käibelolevale kohustuslikule tööstuskunsti määratlusele, mis Tombergi hinnangul ei vastanud tegevusala haardele. Juba esimesed diplomaatid väljendasid osakonna laiaulatuslikumat ambitsooni eriala mõistmisel, käsitleti oluliselt laiemaid teemasid kui vaid tööstustoodang.

Disaini teadvustamiseks ja seda puudutava info levitamiseks kutsuti ellu kateedri õppetööde näituse sari, mida organiseeriti asutustes ja ettevõtetes, näiteks Tartu Ülikoolis, mööblivabrikus Standard, ARSis. Olulisim neist näitustest toimus 1984. aastal ERKI saalis, kus tollast disainialast võimekust esitlesid ka osakonna vilistlased. Tähelepanavaim eksponaat oli Moskva olümpiamängude raames toimunud purjeregati aegne Tallinna linna kujundus, kus kateedri lõpetanute projektgrupi tööd täiendasid diplomaatid. Näitus kattus ajaliselt teaduskonverentsiga "Kunstnik-tööstus 85".

Tomberg oli eriala loomisel kolmeks kümnnendate eluaastate alguses. Elule kriitiliselt tagasi vaadates on ta meenutanud, et ehkki tema poolle pöörduti ettepanekuga kevadsemestril, et avada eriala juba sama aasta sügisel, ei olnud tal köhklust. Millist muud töötet üks mees ikka vajab kui kiitust? Nii ei läinud palju aega kaalutlemiseks ja kateeder avatigi sügisel. Ometi jäi küsimus selle ettevõtmise avantüürlikkuse adekvaatsuses Tombergi saatma kogu eluks.

solutions to include work environments, technical equipment and more.

The design department was also unusually branded. In connection with the call to the all-republic industrial art exhibition in 1969, the designation "ERKIDISAIN" was adopted for the first design exhibition. This was a critical reaction to the prevailing official definition of industrial art, which, according to Tomberg, did not reflect the true scope of the discipline. The very first diploma works expressed the department's broader ambition in understanding the field, addressing significantly wider topics than just industrial production.

The department stood out throughout its history for its exceptionally vibrant exhibition activity. To raise awareness of design, a series of exhibitions showcasing the department's educational projects was established, organised in institutions and enterprises such as the University of Tartu, the Standard furniture factory and ARS Art Products Factory. The most significant of these exhibitions took place in 1984 in the State Art Institute's assembly hall. It was an important panoramic exhibition showcasing the state of the art in design at the time, including works by alumni of the department. The most notable exhibit was the urban space design planned for Tallinn during the sailing regatta of the Moscow Olympic Games, where the department's graduate workgroup projects were complemented by diploma works. The exhibition coincided with the scientific conference "Artist – Industry 85".

Tomberg was in his early thirties when he helped establish the department. Reflecting critically on his life, he recalled how he did not hesitate to take on the job, even though he was only approached with the opportunity to design the programme in the spring, just a semester before the autumn in which it was to be opened. Nevertheless, the question of the venture's boldness and its possible shortcomings would stay with Tomberg for the rest of his life.

Näitustesari "Ruum ja vorm" sai alguse 1969. aastal ning toimus Tallinna Kunstihoones järgnevatel aastatel mitu korda. Näituse idee initsiaatoriks ja korraldajaks oli Kunstnike Liidu kujundajate sektsoon eesotsas Bruno Tombergiga ja eesmärgiks seati loomingulise initsiativi ja mõtlemise arendamine ning vaatajale keskkonnaloomingu köige kaasaegsemate probleemide tutvustamine. "Ruum ja vorm" oli rängest funktsionaalsusest sõltumatu nähtus, mis pakkus kujundajatele vabadust murda välja argirutiinist ja sisiharjunud mõttekäikudest ning muuta seeläbi vastuvõtlikumaks ja tähelepanelikumaks ka vaataja.

1969. aastaks, mil toimus esimene "Ruum ja vorm", oli standardiseerimine nii elamuehituses kui ka esemekujunduses täies hoos. Kujundajate eksperimenteerimisvõimalused ei olnud küll olematud, kuid neid oli siiski vähe. See oli viinud väsimuse ja kordustest tüdimuseni nii tarbija kui ka kujundaja, muutes nad samas uuele eriliselt vastuvõtlikuks.

Näitused toimusid iga kord kindla kontseptsiooni alusel, mille väljatöötaja(d) olid ka näituse kujundajaks. Näituste kujundused olid teemast lähtuvalt alati omaette põhjalikult läbitöötatud. Need olid totaalsed vaatemängulised keskkonnad ja kunstihuone valgusküllaste ruumide ilmet, kus oli aastate jooksul harjutud nägema traditsioonilisi kunstiniäitusi, muudeti olenevalt ideest tundmatuseni.

Esimese näituse märksõnaks kujunesid eksperimenteerimine, (mitte)standardsus, katsetused standardsete detailidega ja individuaalsus. Standardsete detailide kasutamise võimalused mittestandardse lahenduse loomisel olid mõeldud avatud lahenduste pakkumisena nii kujundajatele kui ka vaatajatele, et tutvustada viimastele kunstnike otsinguid ja uusi mõtteid nii vormis, materjalis kui ka värvis.

Näituse kontseptsiooni autoriteks ja kujundajateks olid 1950. aastate alguses kunstiinstituudi lõpetanud ruumikujundajad

The exhibition series "Space and Form" was initiated in 1969 and was held several times at the Tallinn Art Hall during the following years. The exhibition was conceived and organised by the designers' section of the Artists' Association, led by Bruno Tomberg. The aim was to develop creative initiative and thinking while introducing the audience to the most contemporary issues in environmental design. "Space and Form" represented a break from strict functionality, offering designers the freedom to escape routine and established thought patterns, making viewers more receptive and attentive in the process.

By 1969, when the first "Space and Form" exhibition occurred, standardisation in both residential construction and object design was well underway. Although opportunities for experimentation existed, they were limited. This situation led to frustration and a sense of repetition among both consumers and designers, making them particularly receptive to new ideas.

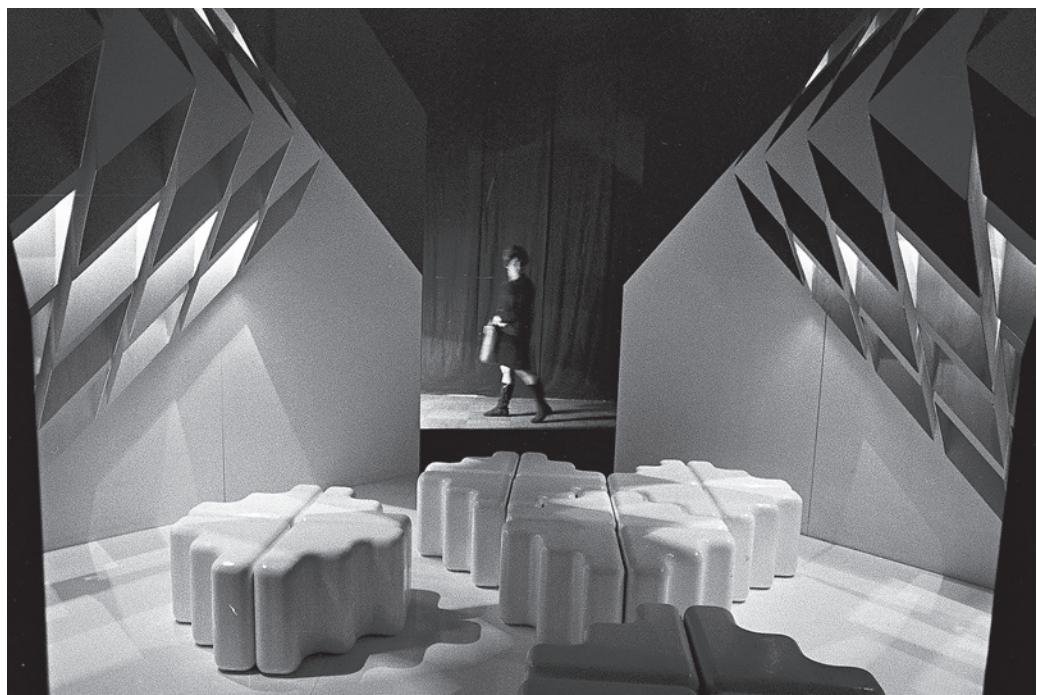
Each exhibition was based on a specific concept, with the developer(s) of the concept also serving as the exhibition designer(s). Each exhibition design was meticulously developed as a unique attraction relevant to its theme. These were immersive visual environments, the underlying concepts of which transformed the brightly lit spaces of the Tallinn Art Hall, where traditional art exhibitions had long been the norm, into something unrecognisable.

The keywords for the first exhibition were experimentation, (non)standardisation, trials with standard components and individuality. The opportunities for using standard components in creating non-standard solutions were intended to provide open-ended solutions for both designers and viewers, showcasing the artists' explorations and new ideas in form, material and colour.

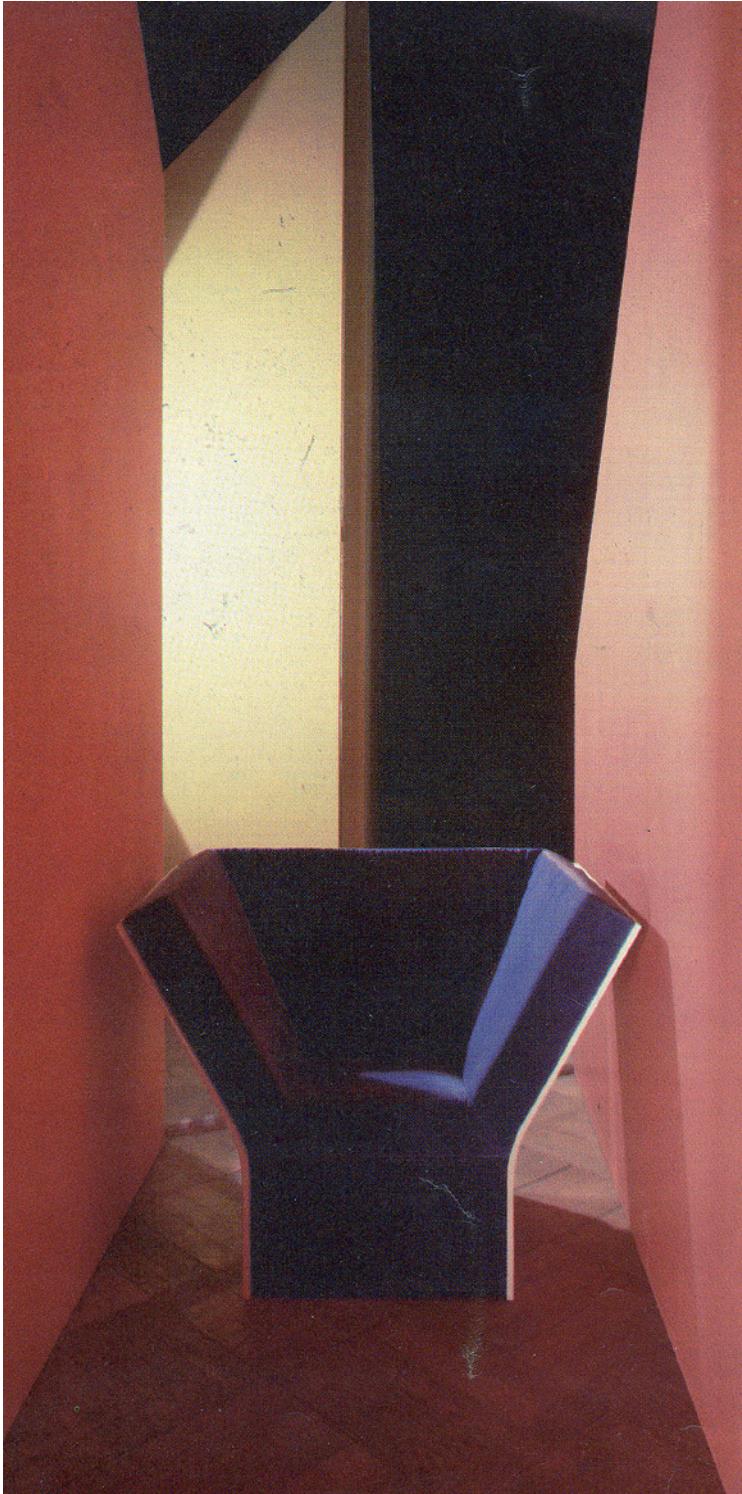
The authors and designers of the exhibition concept were interior designers Eha Reitel, Maia Laul, Kärt Voogre and Saima Veidenberg, all graduates of the art institute in the early 1950s, and they were already experienced professionals by that time. Using the proposed modular structure, they



Bruno Tombergi kujundus näitusel "Ruum ja Vorm" I. 1969. Foto Boris Mäemets
Space designed by Bruno Tomberg at the Ruum ja Vorm (Space and Form) I exhibition. 1969.
Photo Boris Mäemets



Vaade Bruno Tombergi kujundatud näitusele "Ruum ja Vorm" II. 1972.
Foto Boris Mäemets
View of the exhibition Ruum ja Vorm (Space and Form) II exhibition. 1972.
Photo Boris Mäemets



Bruno Tombergi kujundatud tool näitusel "Ruum ja Vorm" II. 1972. Foto Boris Määrmets
Chair designed by Bruno Tomberg at the exhibition Ruum ja Vorm (Space and Form) II. 1972. Photo Boris Määrmets

Eha Reitel, Maia Laul, Kärt Voogre, Saima Veidenberg. Nende poolt väljapakutud moodulstruktuuri abil loodi keerukalt liigendatud ruum ja näitusel osalejatele anti kandvaks ülesandeks kuubi ja kera moodulipõhisid suhted, millest sai tuletada edasisi vorme nagu silindrid, risttahukad jne. Kasutati maketlikke materjale, nagu liistud, vineer, kartong, metall-latid ja torud. Teiste seas pakkus Tomberg välja moodulitest kombineeritava varieeruvate funktsioonidega mööbli, eksponeeriti ka tema kujundatud küünlajalgu. Vormide kombinatoorikat toetasid värvid ja graafika.

Teise näituse idee autoriks oli Tomberg ise, kujundus sai teoks koostöös Saima Veidenbergiga ja käsitles kahe vormikategooria – ruumi ja vormi – omavaheliste suhete probleeme. Sellel nähtu seas mööblinäidiseid enam kuivivõrd ei leidunud, laiale vaatajateringile esitati “esmaseid abstraktseid protsesse”, kujundamise vaheetappi, mida tavaliselt materjalis ei fikseeriti. Röhutati pigem vaatamisel tekkivatele assotsiatsioonidele ning soovile mitte luua stereotüüp, vaid röhutada ekspeeritust eksperimentaalset väärust: "... ruumiloomingu eesmärgiks on ruumi, vormi, värvि vahendusel elamuslikkuse taotlus. Lahendus igal üksikul juhul saab olla vaid konkreetne, ühekordne ja erinev," sõnastas Tomberg näituse saatetekstis eesmärgi. Sellele näitusele oli kaasatud juba ka tööstuskunsti eriala tudengite töid. Kujunduslikult oli tegu vineerist vaheseintest teravnurkade rägastikuga, mis pakkus saalides erinevatest perspektiividest triibulisi vaateid, millega püüti autori sõnul välidata eelmise näituse staatilisust.

created a complexly articulated space, asking participants to explore modular relationships based on cubes and spheres, from which further forms, such as cylinders and rectangular prisms, could be derived. Model-making materials such as battens, plywood, cardboard, metal rods and pipes were used. Among other contributions, Tomberg proposed furniture with multifunctional modules, and his candlestick designs were also exhibited. The combinations of forms were enhanced by colour and graphic design.

The concept for the second exhibition was authored by Tomberg himself, with the design realised in collaboration with Saima Veidenberg. It addressed the interrelations between the two categories of form: space and shape. Unlike the first exhibition, there were significantly fewer furniture samples presented. Instead, “primary abstract processes” were showcased to the public, representing a stage in design that is not typically committed to material form. The emphasis was on the associations formed during viewing, with a desire to avoid creating stereotypes and instead highlight the experimental value of the exhibited works: “The aim of spatial creation is to seek experiential quality through space, form and colour. Each solution must be specific, unique and different,” wrote Tomberg in the exhibition’s accompanying text. This exhibition also included works from students in the industrial art programme. Design-wise, it featured a labyrinth of acute-angled plywood partitions that offered fragmented views from various perspectives, aiming, according to the designer, to avoid the static nature of the previous exhibition.



Bruno Tomberg on öelnud, et loometöös tarbekunsti vahenditega on vabadust, millest ta ruumikujunduse juures puudust tundis.

Tombergil önnestus eelkõige ENSV tarbekunsti ja ka suuremate kunstiülevaate-näituste kujundamistööde kaudu käia mitmel pikemal reisil. Esimene viis ta 1959. aastal ENSV tarbekunstnäituse kujundajana ja ühtlasi seal osaleva autorina Helsingisse ja Lahtisse. Mahukas näitus toimus legendaarse Taidehalli ruumides. Edasi lisandusid reisid Poola, Tšehhoslovakkiasse, Norrasse, Saksa DVsse.

Reisid kaugematesse paikadesse jätsid jälgi ka Tombergi unikaalloomingusse. Nii on Egiptuse (1964) ja Kreeka külastuste (1976) otsest mõju näha just Tombergi tekstiili-, eriti vaibaloomingus.

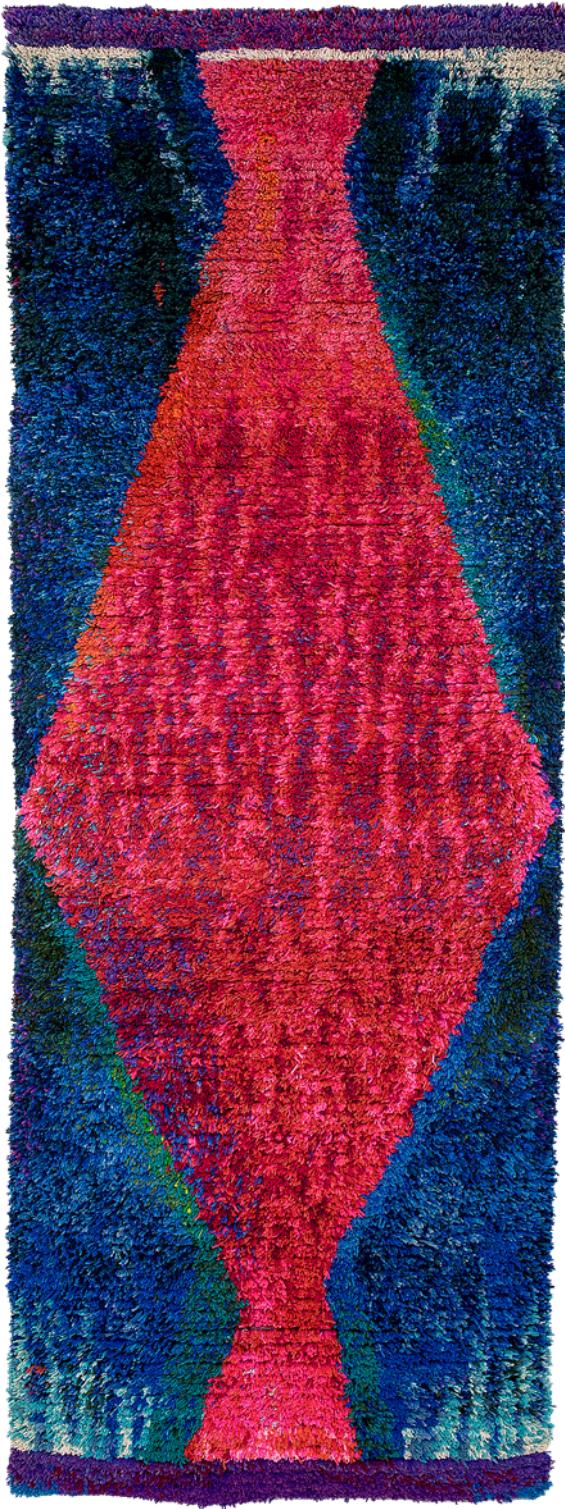
Valminud vaipade ja kangaste kõrval oli Tomberg ka aktiivne kavandaja. Säilinud on hulgaliselt tema unikaalloomingu aluseks olnud visualiseeritud möttekäike ja mötete kinnitusi kui ka teostamata kavandeid erinevatest materjalidest esemetele.

Bruno Tomberg has said that working with the creative methods of applied art gave him a sense of freedom that was lacking in interior design.

Through his work in designing exhibitions for applied art in the Estonian SSR and larger panoramic art exhibitions, Tomberg had the opportunity to visit several foreign countries as a tourist. His first trip abroad occurred in 1959 when he travelled to Helsinki and Lahti as both the designer of the Soviet Estonian applied art exhibition in Finland and one of the exhibiting artists. The extensive exhibition took place in Helsinki's legendary Taidehalli. Following that, he had multiple opportunities to visit Finland, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Norway and the German Democratic Republic.

Trips to more distant destinations also left their mark on Tomberg's creative work. The direct influence of his visits to Egypt (1964) and Greece (1976) is particularly evident in his textile work, especially in his rug designs.

Vaip "Ramses (Aafrika I)", 1976
Rug "Ramses (Africa II)", 1976



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”Disainimötted” on Bruno Tombergi antud pealkiri arhiveeritud tekstidele, mille autoriks ta ise oli. Tomberg tegeles aastakümneid väsimatult uue eriala tähinduse ja tähtsuse selgitamisega ning disaini rolli ja mõju tutvustamisega. Seda nõudis juba tema ühiskondlik positsioon, milleks enne tööstuskunsti osakonna juhatamist oli ENSV kunstnike liidu loomingulise sektsiooni juhataja ametikoht.

Tomberg võttis ajakirjanduses sõna juba 1950. aastate lõpust, jagades didaktilisi nõuandeid. Ka selles teavitustöös oli sisu- tihedaim periood õpetamise aeg, sest tööstuskunsti osakond oli disainist kõnelemise eesliini. Tomberg reisis oma aja kohta palju ja tundis vastutust ka eriala kohaliku arengu uurimise ja tutvustamise eest. Kogutud teadmisi ja osakonna tegemisi esitles ta nii kunstnike liidu kui ka kunstiinstituudi konverentsidel ning ajakirjanduses. Paljude muude kirjutiste hulgas on tema koostatud tööstuskunsti peatükk ”Eesti nõukogude entsüklopeedias”. Tombergiga on ilmunud mitmeid intervjuusid ja eriti 2000. aastatel on tal tulnud korduvalt tagantjärele meenutada disainikatedri loomisega seonduvat.

Kui kunstnike liidu loomingulise sektsiooni juhatajana kõneles ta 1961. aastal ajale omaselt tarbekunstist kui erialast, mis tööstuskunstile eelnenuid kontseptsiooni kohaselt pidi panustama uue elustiili loomisse ja mille kaudu pidi keskkond muutuma harmooniliseks, siis 1972. aastal, juba tööstuskunsti katedri juhina rõhutas ta, et tarbekunst ja disain on kaks eri asja. Tomberg nägi ühe suurema probleemina tarbekunsti segajamist disainiga. Tarbekunsti vari sundis teda ikka ja jälle meenutama, et disainile ei tohiks läheneda tarbekunstniku pilguga.

Legendaarseks kujunesid Tombergi 1973. aastal ajakirjas Pioneer toodud mõtted, kus ta vastandas disaineri rolli tööstuskunstriku kui esmekujundaja omale. Disainer pidi tegelema pigem keskkonna muutmisega, piltlikult – triikraua asemele kortsumatu

”Thoughts on Design” is the title Bruno Tomberg gave to a collection of his archived writings. For decades, Tomberg tirelessly explained the significance of the emerging design field as well as its role and impact. His position demanded it – before heading the Department of Industrial Art, he served as head of the Creative Section of the Estonian SSR Artists’ Association.

Tomberg began speaking out and sharing instructional advice in the press as early as the late 1950s. His teaching years were the most active period for his awareness-raising efforts, as the Industrial Art Department took a leading role in design discussions. Tomberg travelled extensively for his time and felt a responsibility to explore and document the development of design in Estonia. He systematically presented his accumulated knowledge and the department’s work at union and institute conferences, as well as in the broader press. Among his many writings, he contributed a chapter on industrial art to the Estonian Soviet Encyclopaedia. Several interviews with Tomberg were published, and especially in the 2000s, he was often asked to look back on the creation of the design department.

As head of the Creative Section of the Artists’ Association, Tomberg spoke in 1961 about applied art as a discipline that, according to the prevailing concept before the advent of industrial art, was to contribute to a new lifestyle and shape a harmonious environment. By 1972, as head of the Industrial Art Department, he stressed that applied art and design were fundamentally different. As Tomberg saw things, the frequent confusion between applied art and design was a major problem. The shadow applied art cast over design forced him to constantly remind others that the field should not be approached from an applied artist’s perspective.

Tomberg’s ideas published in “Pioneer” magazine in 1973 became legendary, as he contradicted the role of the designer to that of an industrial artist as object designer. He explained that designers should focus on shaping an industrial environment – for example, rather than designing an iron, they should aim to create wrinkle-free fabrics,



riide ja tolmuimeja asemele tolmuvaba ruumi loomisega.

1977–78 ja 1982–83 stažeeris Tomberg ENSV Teaduste Akadeemia ajalooinstituudi kunstiajaloo sektori juures. Tema eesmärk oli uurida eriala ehk tööstuskunsti arengu dokumentaalseid jälgj kohalikes mäluasutustes ning töötada läbi vastav perioodika. 1979. aastal valmis uurimistööl põhinev kaastöö „Jooni disaini arengust“ kirjastuse Kunst planeeritud kogumikule Nõukogu Eesti kunstist, mis paraku ei ilmunud. Olles läbi töötanud kohaliku pärandimaastiku ning väheste selles talletatud eriala vaatest, mida polnud varem justkui olemas olnud, võttis Tomberg tänuväärse ülesande avada disaini kontseptuaalseid tagamaid ning kaardistada selle kõrval siinse disaini arengut ja eripärasid.

Ta tutvustas ideid disainist kui ajastust, inimtegevuse algusest eksisteerinud ja hiljem tööstusliku tootmisesega seotud nähtusest. Tomás Maldonadole toetudes kõneles ta ka disaini kutsealastest vastutusest materiaalse kultuuri kriisides, andes disainile globaalse ulatuse ja ülesanded. Tomberg selgitas, kuidas 1950. aastatele omase isoleeritud esemendisain jõudis järgmisel kümnenel konfliktisituatsiooni kogu ümbritseva keskkonnaga praktiliste ja teoreetiliste seoste puudumise tõttu. Ta toetas seisukohta, et disain on uus tegevusalas, mis eraldi kunstilisest tegevusest otsib sünteesi ning liitu teaduse ja tehnikaga, lüues integratiivse seose mitte ainult materiaalse, vaid ka vaimse kultuuri elementide vahel.

1976. aasta kevadel ilmus ajalehes Sirp ja Vasar läbi kolme numbri disainiteemaline arutelu, mis kaasas ruumikujundajaid, tööstuskunstnikke ja tööstuse esindajaid. 1975. aastal kirjutas Tomberg pikema ülevaate disainiöppest ajakirja *Dekorativnoje Isskustvo* Eestile keskendumud numbris, 1984. aastal ilmus põhjalik artikkel tööstuskunsti katedri kujunemisest.

Ajal kui ENSVs tegutses eri ettevõtetes ligikaudu 400 tööstusdisainerit, toimus 1985. aasta aprillis kahepäevane teaduskonverents „Kunstnik-tööstus 85“.

or instead of a vacuum cleaner, they should envision a dust-free environment.

Twice, in 1977–78 and again in 1982–83, Tomberg took a sabbatical from his duties as department head to intern at the Art History Sector of the Institute of History at the Estonian Academy of Sciences. His goal was to research the development of industrial art in local memory institutions and review relevant periodicals. In 1979, he completed an essay, „Jooni disaini arengust“ (Aspects of the Development of Design), intended for a planned collection on Soviet Estonian art by the publishing house Kunst; however, it was never published. After studying the local heritage landscape – where little had been preserved – from the viewpoint of the newly emerging field, Tomberg undertook the task of uncovering the conceptual foundations and positioning of design, mapping the field's development and distinctive features in Estonia as a part of this.

Tomberg introduced the idea of design as a timeless phenomenon, originating from the earliest forms of human activity and later linked with industrial production. Drawing on Tomás Maldonado, he spoke about the designer's professional responsibility in the crises of material culture, attributing universal scope and objectives to design. He illustrated how the isolated object design typical of the 1950s reached a point of conflict with its surrounding environment in the next decade due to a lack of practical and theoretical connections. Tomberg also argued that design was a new field, distinct from traditional artistic practice, one that sought synthesis and integration with science and technology, creating connections not only with material culture but also with intellectual culture.

In the spring of 1976, the „Sirp ja Vasar“ newspaper ran a three-part series on design, featuring input from interior designers, industrial artists and industry representatives. In 1975, Tomberg wrote a comprehensive overview of design education for an issue of „Dekorativnoye Isskustvo“ focused on Estonia, and in 1984, he published an in-depth article on the formation of the Industrial Art Department.

In April 1985, a two-day scientific conference, „Artist – Industry 85“, was held during a time when around 400 industrial

Konverentsi eesmärk oli koondada tähelepanu disaini probleemidele ning tutvustada disaini ja tööstuse vahelist suhet. Selleks ajaks oli Tomberg valdkonna arendamise nimel pingutanud juba kaks aastakümmet ja tema tegemistes oli tunda väsimust ja pettumust, isegi läbikukkumist. Ta rääkis igatsusest dialoogi järele, nimetades varasemaid kogemusi üldiselt "sisehääleteks" kõnelusteks iseendaga, tööstuseks endale enese olemasolust – monoloogideks, mis pole seni saanud enamaks. 1985. aastal tuli tunnistada seisakut üldisema stagnatsiooni keskel.

1985. aastal nentis Tomberg, et selle 20 aasta välitel, mil ta on disainiga tegelenud, on palju muututud. Kui esialgu tegeleti esemekujundusega, siis nüüd oli tema silmis disaineri peamiseks ülesandeks korra loomine, pigem organiseeriv tegevus. Tomberg tundis vastutust tootmise tagajärgede – keskkonnasaaste ja tootmisjääkide eest.

Sotsiaalse vastutuse juurest jöudis Tomberg teda painava tööstuskunsti ja disaini vastuoluni. Toetudes Gropiusele, kes Bauhausi ambitsioone selgitades rõhutas, et liigagi sageli mõistetakse disaini tegelikke taotlusi katsena luua stiili, nägi Tomberg disainil vormilise funktsiooni kõrval palju suuremat ja laiemat rolli. Tomberg oli tõlkinud õppetöö jaoks ka Victor Papaneki tekste ning võttes abiks tema "Miljöö ja miljonid", tutvustas ta ideed disainist, mis sekkub ümbritsevasse maailma sotsiaalse vastutustundega. Ta nimetas seda "nii teadlikuks kui ka intuitiivseks probleemide tajumise ja lahendamise protsessiks". Just see idee laiendab disaini mõõdet ja eristab seda "tööstustoote mudeli kujundamisest", nagu seda sageli esitleti ja defineeriti. Tomberg hindas Papaneki autoriteeti nii teoreetiku kui ka praktikuna, seejuures tema programmilist sõnumit stiililise tootmis-anarhia vastu: disain ei tohi keelduda olema sotsiaalne, poliitiline ja revolutsioniline vahend". Vastandudes disaini komertslikule suunale, tutvustas Tomberg ka antidisaini liikumisi ja ideed.

Tombergi saatis pidev tunne, et ta on üks ja peaegu puhtal lehel, kahetsus, et

designers were employed across various enterprises in the Estonian SSR. The conference aimed to address design issues and examine the relationship between design and industry. By then, Tomberg had already spent two decades working to advance the field. However, his efforts now belied fatigue and frustration, even a sense of failure. He spoke of a longing for dialogue, describing previous experiences as "internal conversations" or monologues, affirming his own existence yet lacking broader resonance. By 1985, it was clear the field had stagnated amid a wider cultural standstill.

In 1985, Tomberg reflected on the many changes over his 20 years in design. While the initial focus had been on object design, he now saw the designer's primary role as introducing order – more of an organising activity. Tomberg felt responsible for the environmental consequences of production, such as pollution and industrial waste.

This sense of social responsibility led Tomberg to confront the contradictions between industrial art and design. Drawing on Gropius, who emphasised that Bauhaus's mission was often misunderstood as merely creating a style, Tomberg argued that design had a broader role, responsibilities and possibilities beyond its formal function. For teaching purposes, he translated Victor Papanek's texts and, with the help of Papanek's "The Environment and the Millions", introduced the concept of socially responsible design as "a process of sensing and solving problems both consciously and intuitively". This vision expanded the scope of design, distinguishing it from the "modelling of industrial products" that it was often reduced to. Tomberg valued Papanek's authority as both theorist and practitioner, particularly his stand against uncontrolled production: "Design must not shy away from being a social, political and revolutionary tool." He also introduced the anti-design movement and related concepts as a counterpoint to commercialised design.

Tomberg was frequently haunted by a feeling of isolation, a sense that he was working on what was almost a blank slate; he felt regret over the lack of a well-defined terminological and conceptual base to build on. There was no general framework to define the concepts of industrial art and design,

pole terminoloogilist ja sisulist baasi, pole eelnevalt ettevalmistatud üldist tasandit, kus oleks määratletud tööstuskunsti ja disaini mõisted, nende omavaheline vahekord, ühisosa ja erinevused ning nende asend keskkonna kujundamise ja ümberkujundamise protsessis. Just seetõttu ja isiklikku vastutust tundes tegutses Tomberg pidevalt teoreetilise aluskihi loomise ja kasvatamisega.

their relationship, overlap and differences, or their role in shaping and reshaping the environment. For these reasons and out of a sense of personal responsibility, Tomberg was constantly engaged in developing and nurturing the theoretical foundations of the field.

**BRUNO TOMBERG
LEIUTADES DISAINI / INVENTING DESIGN**

Kuraator / Curator:
Kai Lobjakas

Näitusekujundus / Exhibition design:
Ulla Alla, Merilin Kaup
Kujunduses on kasutatud ja edasi arendatud eelmise näituse kujunduselemente
Display elements of the previous show are used and developed for this exhibition

Graafiline disain / Graphic design:
Indrek Sirkel

Fondid / Fonts: Bruno 100, Ladna Sans
Fondi Bruno 100 disainis Bruno Tombergi plakatikujunduste põhjal Andree Paat (Tüpokompanii)
Bruno 100 is designed by Andree Paat (Tüpokompanii) based on Bruno Tomberg's poster designs

Valitud esemete produktsioon /
Production of selected items:
Valge Kuup Studio

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Bruno Tomberg. 1980. Foto / Photo Ruth Huimerind, Tiit Veermäe

