

# Japanese Design Today 100

29 July—16 September 2011

Japan Foundation Gallery, Sydney

Japanese products are world renowned for their excellent design. Everyday products can have a certain flair to them that makes them more enjoyable to have and use. The finish can be of such good quality that when a product meets the end of its working life it's a wrench to throw it away (which recently happened to this writer).



See the evolution of Japanese design through everyday products

perhaps some never seen at first hand. The first ever portable transistor television (1960), Sony's first pet robotic dog AIBO, and Yamaha's silent violin are just a few of the products being exhibited.

Many of the items are truly everyday domestic items such as cutlery, others form part of the urban environment for

example, transport designs. All give insights into urban living and the nature of contemporary Japanese design.

The Japan Foundation exhibition has travelled the world and in Sydney it forms part of **Sydney Design 2011**.

The Japan Foundation's latest exhibition

**Japanese Design Today 100** brings together some 90 items produced during the 1990s and a dozen post-war objects.

One of the selection committee members for *Japanese Design Today 100* was Mr Masafumi Fukugawa, Curator of Kawasaki City Museum. He says, "When seen as a whole, the objects featured in this exhibition are not just good examples of excellent product design, but a collection of living reference material that reveals the form of contemporary Japanese life."

Among the items that are on display, there will be many familiar ones, but

29 July—16 September 2011  
Japan Foundation Gallery

Level 1, Chifley Plaza  
2 Chifley Square, Sydney  
Monday—Friday, 11am-4pm,  
Wednesdays until 8pm  
Free admission



TOP: Mogu, 2001, designer: Yoshinobu Ishida, © 2004 EBISUKASEI CO. LTD  
BOTTOM: AIBO ERS-111, © 1999 Sony Corporation

## Living Histories Interview Series 2011

The Japan Foundation, Sydney's 'Living Histories' series returns in 2011 in a different format—sessions will consist of live interviews with people who have been helping to shape the relationship between our two countries. Art, current affairs, history and food will be explored in what promises to be a very interesting series.

Interviews will be conducted by Dr Ian Macarthur, who worked as a correspondent and translator in Tokyo during the 1980s and 90s. He is currently a sub-editor for News Corporation and an honorary associate of the Department of Japanese Studies at the University of Sydney.

His interviewees include Tetsu Kariya, the creator of the popular *Oishinbo* manga series which looks at the world of food and saké, and the first foreign-born geisha Sayuki, formerly Fiona Graham, to pick up just two of a fascinating line-up of interviewees.

For full details of 'Living Histories' see [www.jpff.org.au/events.html](http://www.jpff.org.au/events.html).

Wednesday 3,17,31 August and  
7,14, 28 September

Japan Foundation, Sydney—  
Multipurpose Room

Level 1, Chifley Plaza  
2 Chifley Square, Sydney  
6.30pm—8 pm (Doors open 6.00pm)

Free admission,  
but bookings essential

### From the Editor

The Editor invites comments and suggestions about *Japan Reports*.

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