

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SunWeave Designer Helen Kontouris Wins Top Australian Awards

Earns Designer of the Year accolade and her SunWeave Breathe outdoor sofa receives top product award at Interior Design Excellence Awards 2009 in Sydney

HONG KONG, December 4

Helen Kontouris is on cloud 9 after being named Designer of the Year at the Interior Design Excellence Awards (IDEA) 2009. At an awards dinner at The Ivy in Sydney, with a packed house of 550 people celebrating the best of contemporary Australian design, Kontouris also received the Product award for her Breathe sofa manufactured by Hong Kong-based SunWeave International.

Kontouris' Designer of the Year award is voted for throughout the year by Australia's design industry professionals. Her winning sofa in the Product category is from the Breathe Outdoor Lounge Collection of attractive and durable furniture made by fixing hand-woven Polyethylene plastic strips to an aluminium structure.

Awards host Andrew Mackenzie congratulated the 275 short-listed entries, saying that the outstanding designs were testament to the talent of Australian designers working across the country. He added that the projects and products in this year's awards continued to push the boundaries of innovation, creativity and sustainability, setting incredibly high standards across all 13 categories.

"We are incredibly proud of Helen," says SunWeave COO Craig Pallister. "She puts in a lot of hard work and her designs are brilliant. We hope there's more recognition like this for her in future. She's talented and very dedicated."

After picking up her IDEA awards, Kontouris Tweeted during the ceremony: "Pretty Happy Day".

Kontouris is inspired by her observation of everyday experiences, of people's interaction with objects, and the fresh perspectives gained from her travel, which shapes and informs her work. Renowned for her use of contrasting materials, Kontouris' work has often been described as sculptural. Her products invite exploration and an intimate and sensory engagement beyond their immediacy. The Breathe, Mosaic, Trace and Cloud 9 collections are the latest designs by Kontouris for SunWeave.

www.idea-awards.com.au
www.sunweave.com

About Helen Kontouris

Helen lives in Melbourne and graduated in interior design from Victoria's RMIT University in 1995. In 2009 a number of her designs, including the SunWeave Breathe chair, resulted in Helen being short-listed for the finals of the prestigious Cicely and Colin Rigg Contemporary Design Award in state of Victoria and short-listed for the finals of the Bombay Sapphire Design Discovery Award, which rewards and assists Australia's talented emerging designers. She is very popular in Europe, where her works regularly garner positive reviews. Helen also designed the 101 chair, La La stool, Chubby sofa, Bend outdoor range and the Minka chaise and chair – all of which are sought after by connoisseurs around the world.

www.helenkontouris.com

[Twitter.com/HelenKontouris](https://twitter.com/HelenKontouris)

About SunWeave International

Headquartered in Hong Kong with production facilities in the Philippines and China, SunWeave was founded in 2005 and now carries more than 100 stylish products. SunWeave is best known for its innovative and efficient approach to reducing the cost of producing attractive woven furniture that transforms outdoor areas into sophisticated, relaxing spaces – and looks equally spectacular indoors.

Using traditional hand-weaving techniques, modern woven furniture is created from Viro™ fibre, which is resistant to sun, rain, salt and chlorine and will also stand up to food and drink spills. Structural strength is provided by top quality ultra-light powder-coated aluminium.

SunWeave acquired the Danish furniture company Mermaid in 2008, bringing a fresh European outlook to its collections, and also began an exciting collaboration with Helen Kontouris, the award-winning Australian designer.

SunWeave works with a global network of more than 20 respected distribution partners including: Terra Furniture, US; Resasia, Australia; Talenti, Italy; Concept Office, Mauritius; Resource Asia, Hong Kong; SOLYBrisa, Spain; Villa Schmidt, Germany; Resource Asia Portugal; ZZUR, France, Out Door Living; Hawaii and Eurostar, Doha.
www.sunweave.com

Interviews

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High-res Images

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