

**ALUMNI
STORIES**



DOMUS ACADEMY MILANO

AKYOL

RÜYA



Master in Product Design

Country: Turkey

Role: Founder, **Rüya Akyol Studio**

Rüya Akyol gained her Master in Degree in **Product Design** at Domus Academy in 2016 after a Bachelor's Degree in Industrial and Product Design from Istanbul Technical University.

Domus Academy is not only a school but a whole experience that directs you towards becoming the designer you wish to be. The education prepares you for the real design world by creative projects and the network of the school connects you to the people and places that shape your career.

She worked many years as **designer and studio director** with Claudio Bellini in Milan and Philippe Starck in Paris, before eventually established her own studio in Milan.



Rüya Akyol Studio, a Milan and Istanbul-based design and consultancy firm, provides product, furniture, and spatial design, as well as brand identity and art direction services.

The designer's style is a synthesis of contemporary **Italian and minimalist Scandinavian**.



The **holistic design approach** that the studio embraces, creates homogeneous and clear brand identities.

TORRES

RODRIGO



Master in Product Design

Country: Colombia

Role: Founder, Design by Rodrigo Torres

He graduated in Industrial Design from Bogota's Jorge Tadeo University in 1998 and gained his **Master in Product Design** from Domus Academy in 1999.

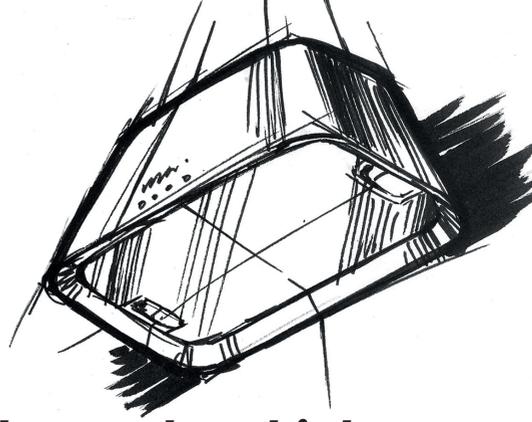


Everything started from there. Domus Academy opened my eyes to the world of design and all its possibilities, and it gave me incredible friends and teachers who have been extremely important to my professional success.



Following his studies, he worked for five years at Stefano Giovannoni's product and furniture design studio in Milan.

In 2004, he founded his own Milan studio, **Design by Rodrigo Torres**. His clients include major international companies such as **Alessi** (Italy), **Poliform** (Italy), **Oras** (Finland), **Cassina IXC** (Japan), **Landscapeforms** (USA), **Nike** (USA), **Microsoft** (USA / with MNML), **Domodinamica** (Italy), **Potocco** (Italy), **Challenger** (Colombia), and **Zientte** (Colombia), among others.



At Domus Academy, I learned to think differently and to witness the key cultural, environmental, and economic role of design in the development and improvement of our world.



Rodrigo is three-times winner of the **Lapiz de Acero Design Award**, two-times winner of the **Red Dot Award**, and four-times winner of the **Good Design Award**.

He served as a **visiting professor and project leader** in both the Master in Product Design and Master in Interaction Design courses at Domus Academy. He is also a visiting professor at the Istituto Europeo di Design in Turin.

He held workshops at universities and companies in Italy, Mexico, the United States, and Colombia.



His work has been highlighted in some of the most important design publications and exhibitions in Europe, Asia, and America.

KWANGNOK KITTIMA



Master in Fashion Management

Country: Thailand

Role: Founder, **KITTIMA**

Born in Bangkok, Kittima Kwangnok graduated in 2007 from Khon Kaen University in northeastern Thailand with a Master in Business Management.

She enrolled in the **Master in Fashion Management programme** at Domus Academy in 2012.



In 2015, Kittima launched her **brand KITTIMA** and came out with her first collection, which was selected by Vogue Talents in its New Talents section and was showcased during **Milan Fashion Week** at Palazzo Morando in February 2015.

Studying at Domus Academy, I had many opportunities to work with several prime brands such as Versace, Valentino, and Mont-Blanc. The outcomes and experiences working with these brands in the fashion and business fields are what has developed my true passion—which is not only my brand but what my brand stands for, too: a chic and sophisticated style with a positive and quirky edge to it.

In 2016, Kittima was selected by the Triennale di Milano and Camera Della Moda Italiana to show her work in the exhibition The New Vocabulary of Italian Fashion.

Kittima began consulting with the government of Thailand, helping them with trade issues relating to design and fashion. She helped orchestrate the Department of International Trade Promotion (DITP)'s Pop-Up Store Project to promote Thai designs in Milan.



In 2017, she presented her Spring/Summer 2018 collection at TRANOÏ show, during **Paris Fashion Week**.

The Philosophy of KITTIMA focuses on “Made in Italy” materials and craftsmanship, and timeless, high-quality pieces. The brand itself is all about diversity and multiculturalism. Kittima’s Thai background is the crux of her brand.

SABAJI

JEAN-LOUIS



Master in Fashion Design

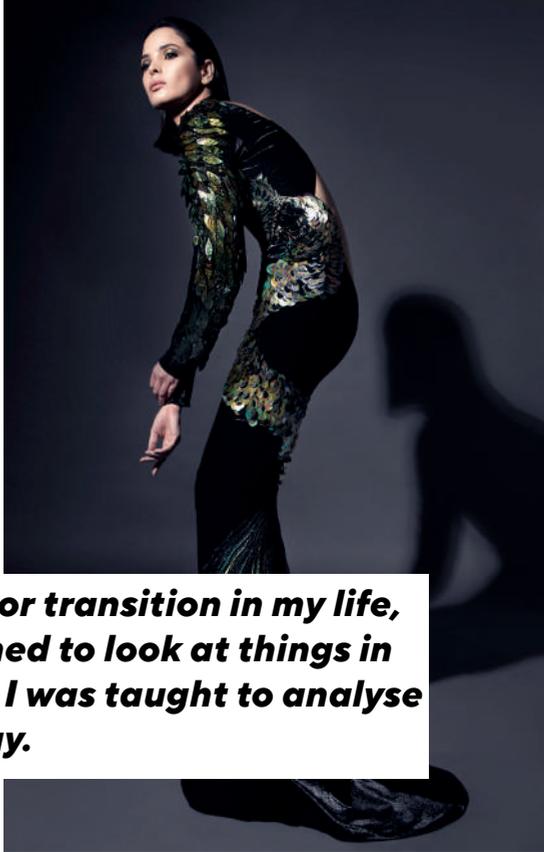
Country: Lebanon

Role: Founder, Jean-Louis Sabaji

Jean-Louis Sabaji is a Lebanese Fashion designer based in Jounieh, Lebanon. He was introduced to the fashion world at his father's atelier, where he was used to spend time from his infancy.



His passion for Fashion brought him to Milan, gaining a **Master in Fashion Design** at Domus Academy in 2011, where he learned a unique way of thinking and design.



Domus Academy was a major transition in my life, during my year there I learned to look at things in a different perspective and I was taught to analyse concepts in a whole new way.

[Jean - Louis Sabaji



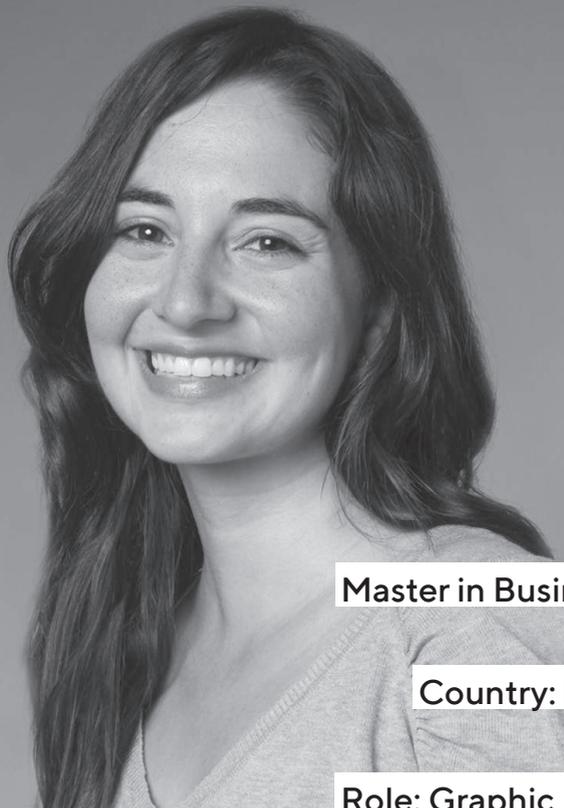
Later, he founded his own brand gaining lot of success and visibility starting from his SS18 collection which attracted many celebrities like **Toni Garrn, Mary J. Blige, Beyoncé** and **Allison Williams** who wear his dresses on **red carpets** around the world.



His Fall-Winter 2020 collection has been inspired by the **mythological goddess Lilith**, reinterpreting her story to celebrate women and their potency.

• SABRINA

THEUMANN DIAZ



Master in Business Design

Country: Brazil

Role: Graphic Designer at **Salesforce**

Sabrina Theumann Diaz is a Brazilian **graphic and business designer**. She grew up in **Brazil**, then studied in Germany and worked in **Switzerland, Germany** and **Italy**. This mixed background makes her able to build a good understanding of working in different countries and with different cultures.

She gained her **Master Degree in Business Design** at Domus Academy in 2009.

The year I spent at Domus Academy was very useful for my career, as I was able to learn about Design Thinking and how companies can profit from it in various areas. I also learned a lot from my fellow international students, some became very good friends until this day and they gave me more insight on Corporate Communications.

Before joining **Salesforce**, where she currently works for, she worked as a **Corporate Graphic Designer** for the past 15 years in international companies in various areas (Education, Arts, Industry, Travel, B2B, B2C, Automotive and Tech).

JANAY CUMBERBATCH



Master in Luxury Brand Management

Country: Barbados

Role: Strategist & Project Manager
Studio Five Creative

With a background in **business marketing and luxury branding**, Janay Cumberbatch connects business sensibility with a discerning eye for design. After earning her Bachelor's in Business Administration with a focus on marketing & branding, she worked as a business developer in her native Barbados for Sea Reinas swimwear, where she developed blogger collaborations and expanded the brand's social media presence.

My passion lies with drawing meaningful brand connections that inevitably change the hearts and minds of people, along with guiding brands to a place of cultural relevance.

Domus Academy has truly been one of my most enlightening experiences. Beyond being surrounded and influenced by inspiring mentors, leaders, and classmates, Domus Academy provided me with the tools, confidence, and exposure to fulfill my career dreams.

She graduated cum laude from Domus Academy with a Master in Luxury Brand Management in 2017. During the workshops she collaborated with the brands Salvatore Ferragamo, YOOX NET-A-PORTER, 10 Corso Como, and Slowear. She then interned at Slowear as a content creator and copywriter.

My goal is to infuse intentionality into every facet of a brand's strategy, starting from the building blocks of research insight, through to conceptualization and strategic vision.

Janay worked as junior strategist at **AKQA** in Venice, where she conducted detailed strategic analysis of market trends, competitive landscapes, and customer needs for clients such as **Lamborghini, Ducati, Inter Milan, and Police Eyewear**. Now she is working as Strategist & Project Manager at **Studio Five Creative**, Barbados.

• TUCCI

GIANPAOLO



Master in Interaction Design

Country: Italy

Role: Design Consultant - Creative
Director Visual & Experience Landing
Products Innovation

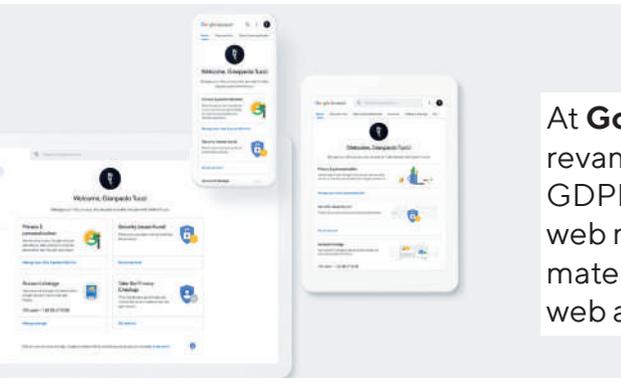
He graduated in “**Industrial design for fashion**” at La Seconda Università degli Studi di Napoli, faculty of Architecture in 2007 and then gained his **Master Degree in Interaction Design** in Milano at Domus Academy in 2008.

***I would not be where I'm without
Domus Academy and people at Domus
Academy.***



He has been working for many businesses during his career, from agencies to corporates with the goal of scaling design impact.

At **Nokia & HERE**, he worked as Horizontal Design Principal, part of the design leadership team, being a key player for .com strategy definition and implementation with a +35% NPS increase. As an individual specialist, Gianpaolo looked horizontally after product's alignment, evolution and innovation for Mobility, Customer Experiences and Design Forward innovation team



At **Google**, he worked towards the revamping of the new Google account GDPR privacy regulation on web and web mobile platforms, influencing material design 2 pattern definition for web and web mobile platform.



He was recently awarded with a **Silver Lion and a Bronze Lion** at **Cannes**, the **international festival of creativity** with an auditory project, carried out at R/GA London, to improve digital storytelling for the visually impaired.

Gianpaolo founded and directed **Atelier About**, a Berlin-based fashion brand that has got massive great feedback and perception after just one year of life. Atelier About has been featured in **Vogue** Italy, Vogue Germany, **L'Officiel** Italy, L'Officiel Netherlands, **I-D**, **FFFFFucking Young**, **WWD**, **Actung**, and many more.



Gianpaolo, combining his passion for both **art and technology**, is currently focusing on **Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning** potential as a possible game changer when applied to design processes and creative discovery. In particular, he is focusing on how AI can change the landscape of typography with his project **@Aesthetics_Imperfections**.

Currently, he is working as Design Consultant for and with various Corporates Brand and Agencies.



DAMANI

MEGHA



Master in Interaction Design

Country: India

Role: Interaction Designer, Design Group Italia

Born in Bangalore, India, in 1991 Megha gained her **Master in Interaction Design** at Domus Academy in 2018.

Having 4 years of prior experience in UX design, Domus Academy gave me a platform where I could explore and apply interaction design to a variety of fields like visual merchandising & identity design that helped me broaden my experience and learn from a diverse team!

With a penchant for UX Design, Research, Technology, Design Process, and Digital Tools, she is currently working as **Interaction Designer** at Design Group Italia. Her keen interest lies in research, analysing and **solving complex data** and customer process scenarios.

She worked aside mechanical engineers, developers, as well as the C-level management to achieve the goal of the **user and business-centric experience design**.

Previous to her **Master at Domus Academy**, she worked for 3 years at Salesforce.com in Bangalore, India, as a UX Designer and other MNC's like EMC2 and Emids, honing her skills in security, analytics, CRM's and healthcare sectors.

Megha also continues to work as an independent User Experience Consultant for startups, technology, and digital agencies.



DOMUS ACADEMY MILANO

Think further, Design beyond