

## Created by Kyoto: The Sfera Design Showcase

Traditional Japanese craftsmanship comes to the UK

For the first time ever, pioneering Japanese design brand Sfera is coming to the British capital, with a very special exhibition presenting a selection of timeless classics and never-before-seen new creations to the design aficionados of the UK.



From 17–21 November, a selection of Sfera works will be displayed at design space [Clerkenwell London](#). The exhibition consists of three strands: a selection of homewares, furniture, ceramics and other products designed solely by Sfera and handmade in Japan by local artisans; new examples of Sfera's work with other influential Japanese design brands; and a collection of tableware and ceramics collaboratively designed by Sfera and Kyoto craftspeople in partnership with Kyoto Prefecture.

Founded in Kyoto in 2001 by the designer Shigeo Mashiro, Sfera is dedicated to bringing Japan's traditional crafts and modern aesthetics to the international design stage. Drawing on the ancient skills of Japanese craftspeople, an eye for the beauty of simplicity, and a love of natural, time-honoured materials, Sfera produces elegant, modern and functional pieces that exist somewhere on the border between design and art.

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The new collection is organised in three parts:

### 1 | SFERA

This new collection showcases the breadth of Sfera's design expertise and presents an eye-opening introduction to the scope, heritage and philosophy of the brand. All designed by Shigeo Mashiro, each piece embodies a finely tuned balance of contemporary design and traditional techniques – refined over centuries and reinterpreted for the modern day.

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# Sfera

PRESS RELEASE  
17 November 2015

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**TONTON** | A contemporary, chunky-legged chair series fashioned from three types of wood – cherry, maple and quince – and available either as bare wood or in a range of upholstery fabrics.

**WINDSOR** | An elegantly minimalist dog bed crafted from cherry and beech woods, with an optional upholstered cushion for canine comfort.

**RIPPLE** | A set of tactile-surfaced wooden stools and accompanying copper-topped side table, finished with turned and textured chestnut.



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## 2 | SFERA AND KOSUGA/ASAHAYAKI

A core part of Sfera's mission is fostering creative collaborations that showcase the artisanal processes of Japanese craft, the ingenuity of Japanese manufacturers and the creative vision of Shigeo Mashiro as a designer.

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**FOR KOSUGA** | 'Hanakago': an engagingly asymmetric series of vases comprising woven bamboo baskets with porcelain or glass containers inside.

**FOR ASAHIYAKI** | A new pottery series consisting of a pitcher, coffee and soup cups and matching saucers, each with a shimmering ripple-effect blue glaze.



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### 3 | SFERA AND KYOTO PREFECTURE

Sfera's partnership with **Kyoto Prefecture** is intended to shine a light on the city's craft heritage and demonstrate how historic techniques of Kyoto's community of makers and materials specialists can be employed to create products with a simple, clean-lined beauty that befits the modern age.

**CANDLE HOLDERS** | To make this remarkable range of candlesticks in various sizes, Mashiro drew upon the skills of metal artist **Chikako Ueda** and talented woodworker **Takatsugu Matsumoto**. The result is a series of objects that work together to emphasise the properties of their materials, using the natural grains of native woods (cherry, ash, oak, maple, zelkova and castor aralia) and the effects of different metals and metal-hammering techniques to create beautifully textured, elegantly geometric pieces.



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DOMESTIC WARE | **Chikako Ueda**'s talent for moulding and manipulating metals can also be seen in the Sfera-designed series of copper vessels, each designed to hold a different substance – such as milk, water or oil. Similarly, the water pitcher made by the potter Takeshi Furukawa, and the organically rippled wooden tray carved by Takatsugu Matsumoto each draw on traditional crafts that have been practised in Kyoto for centuries.

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**EXHIBITION DETAILS** >>     **Dates**           Tuesday 17 – Saturday 21 November  
                                  **Location**       Clerkenwell London, 155 Farringdon Road  
                                  **Opening hours** 10:00 – 18:00 daily

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**Shigeo Mashiro**, founder and creative director of **Sfera**, and one of the most respected designers in Japan, will be attending the exhibition from 17–19 November, and is available for interview.

For more information about Sfera, images of the products or to arrange an interview with Shigeo, please contact Sabine at **Zetteler Creative Publicity** at 07791 568890 or email [sabine@zetteler.co.uk](mailto:sabine@zetteler.co.uk).

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## NOTES FOR EDITORS

**ABOUT SFERA** | Founded by Shigeo Mashiro in a Kyoto in 2001, Sfera has sought to create interior accessories that capture the modern spirit but still remain timeless. Now with additional branches in Tokyo and Milan, the company is rooted in Japanese conceptions of creativity, prizing quality, beauty and functionality in every object it produces. Combining traditional materials such as wood, metal, stone and natural fibres, age-old techniques and a forward-looking approach, Sfera brings contemporary Japanese craft to the international market, as well as helping other design brands extend their global reach. Alongside expanding its range of classic everyday tableware, furniture, textiles and ceramics, Sfera works with architects and interior designers around the world to extend its vision of elegant but understated urban luxury in interior spaces.

[www.ricordi-sfera.com](http://www.ricordi-sfera.com)

[zetteler.co.uk/clients/sfera](http://zetteler.co.uk/clients/sfera)

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**ABOUT CLERKENWELL LONDON** | Launched in 2015, Clerkenwell London is one-of-kind location to discover talent from designer-makers and visionary brands across a spectrum of creative fields. Showcasing a considered collection of hand-picked homewares, fashion, jewellery, stationery, art, music and literature, the 13,000sq m space is also home to contemporary bistro 155 Bar & Kitchen and a dedicated Wine Library. Aiming to offer a level of bespoke service unparalleled in any other venue, Clerkenwell London also offers on-site tailoring, perfumery and a programme of masterclass events.

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