



After-effects—

A news report by [Pierfrancesco Cravel](#)

Some days ago this very website published a letter addressed to Alessandro Mendini where by quoting the words of a character of a Disney cartoon - the famous gastronomic critic Anton Ego - I was trying to urge him to bear and defend the "New" in a world so rapidly evolving that it strains and exceeds our abilities to understand it. I decided to follow french artist Sophie Calle's example. When a boyfriend broke off with her in an email she distributed the missive to 107 female professionals, inviting them to analyze it, according to their profession as actors, artists or merely friends. The results filled the french pavilion of the Venice Biennale and were showered with praise.

In reference to Mrs. Calle I forwarded the letter addressed to Alessandro Mendini to the people involved in the front line with the research and production of the new; and asked them about their opinion.

The first answer came from Andrea Branzi who together with Corrado Levi showed me how to read the mood of the world, or better yet "worlds" of design, architecture and related drawings. Please find Andrea Branzi's letter here below:



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Dear Francesco,

I write to you in reference to your request of my opinion about your letter published on Domus website concerning Enzo Mari and Alessandro Mendini's critical interventions regarding the present (or today's) young designers.

As a matter of fact I described the generation gap in my book "Design Portraits and self portraits" by quoting Domus no. 864, issued in 2005 (guided at that time by Stefano Boeri).

In that particular issue Ettore Sottsass, Vico Magistretti, Enzo Mari e Alessandro Mendini officially expressed a negative thesis about the new generations.

In my opinion this controversy is based on a double misunderstanding: Accomplished masters believe that they can judge the young generation with parameters that are not considering the structural changes and deep transformations that shifted the design in a new "mass work" (and any comprehensive judgement about this work at least improper); On the other hand, young people are rushing to establish themselves as the new masters instead of further developing and enhancing their autonomy from the past.

Such a (barren) controversy is the fruit of our ever evolving times. They are however not always noted and looked at as a challenge for independence and tolerance.

Cordially

Andrea Branzi

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