



Mono collection

*“Make it simple, but significant”*

Don Draper



# Between art, design and technology

The newest PLH collection is called **Mono** and is designed by Enrico Corelli, founder and CEO of the company and was developed from a wide spectrum design process that begins with an artistic crush. Corelli says: *"I have recently been in Paris where I saw an exhibition that impressed me and aroused my curiosity, making me think of what kind of suggestions the content of the exhibition could ignite in the PLH productions. Apparently, there was no connection, but...."*. It was a wide retrospective on the German artist (naturalised American in 1939) Josef Albers (1888-1976) and his wife Anni. Albers has been one of the pillars of **Bauhaus**, the German school of decorative arts that changed the perception and sense of design forever. It was founded in Weimar in 1919 by Walter Gropius, painter, lithographer, designer, theoretician and author. Albers joined in 1920 and, in 1923, became professor of the glass painting course. From 1925, when the headquarter moved to Dessau, to 1932, a year before the closing of the school due to the heavy conflicts with the national-socialist regime, he directed the propaedeutic course, with laboratory activities, that introduced students to the Bauhaus world.

It was especially in this period that he developed his theories on **colour** and **shape**, influenced by Wolfgang Goethe's theory of colours, the synaesthetic and anthroposophist concept of Vassilij Kandinskij and Paul Klee's mathematical vision of colour, both also part of the Bauhaus movement as were Hannes Meyer, Ludwig Mies Van der Rohe, Laszlo Molnoly-Nagy, Herbert Bayer, Marlene Brandt, Marcel Breuer, Lyonel Feininger and Johannes Itten among others; architects, designers and artists of great theoretical and practical genius that contributed to making the School an exceptional cultural movement whose principles are still valid: the absence of boundaries between artist and artisan, essentiality versus ornament, the vocation for experimenting and continuous research, emphasis on technological update, a calibrated and non-dispersive use – 'sustainable' we would say today – of resources, the use of materials and their intrinsic expressivity, the importance of manual work, the vision of creative work as "total work of art" ( Gesamtkunstwerk, term that derives from romanticism, made famous by Richard Wagner). *"These well-established principles are also PLH's!"* Corelli comments.

Albers promoted a kind of painting and graphics that was not objective, purist and free from figurative stillness in favour of the expression of a visual and emotional instability, shapes that were dynamic yet recognizable. During the Bauhaus years he did it through coloured glass collages that allowed him to explore the floating continuum of light, and moreover, in the United States through geometric shapes inserted one into the other (mainly squares) characterized by skilled chromatic variations, like a visual alchemy; the Homage to the Square series (1950-1976) is emblematic.

*"His squares and colours",* Corelli says, *"made me think and inspired me as models to refer to for a new collection. I thought of what kind of visual impact could a round full colour big button inserted in a square or rectangular chassis have. Strong dynamism and symbolism. Wandering through Albers production I, unexpectedly, found a magnificent cover series from 1966 for the great musician Enoch*

*Light's records, in which the lead character "is" precisely the circle repeated in different variations between Pop Art and electronic art. Here we go, I thought. This is how Mono started".*

Not only design and art are at the base of the new collection, but also ergonomics, factors related to the use of the plate and elements that give functional clarity. For Corelli and PLH to simplify is a mantra. *"In today's homes walls are invaded by command plates, often with dozens of buttons with non-defined functions and often each installed plate has only one function. Mono gathers, in one or two button, plurality of functions, it is an intelligent and attractive alternative to this technical and visual disorder".*

The body and button are obtained from solid aluminium, the innovative back of the chassis is printed in 3D, the finish is obtained through the application of a **ceramic film**, patented by CeraKote, that enhances its feel, resistance and durability. The basic plate, the first to be designed and most essential, includes a round tilting 59 mm diameter button, set in a 80×80 square body, to be pressed on compass points – north, east, south, west, to set as many functions as possible. In the same chassis, a smaller one can be set, a rotational Neo button of 29 mm of diameter, 10 mm thickness and three functions. To increment what Mono can command, a 80×152 mm chassis has been designed in which two circular buttons can be set, either in the same dimension-59 mm - or in different ones - 59 mm and 29 mm- offering the user 8 or 7 command functions. The possibility to install a command button with a power socket is available too. The possible combinations are many and they multiply when they are arranged with the 16-colour palette, sharp or warm, a selection based on a **chromatic scale** that allows harmonic or contrast solutions. The number of the possible variants increases to render the device's potential logically and clearly; symbols indicating different functions can be decided by the client in a chosen guise, laser engraving crowning the button or logos and other graphisms are available, customization to its maximum.

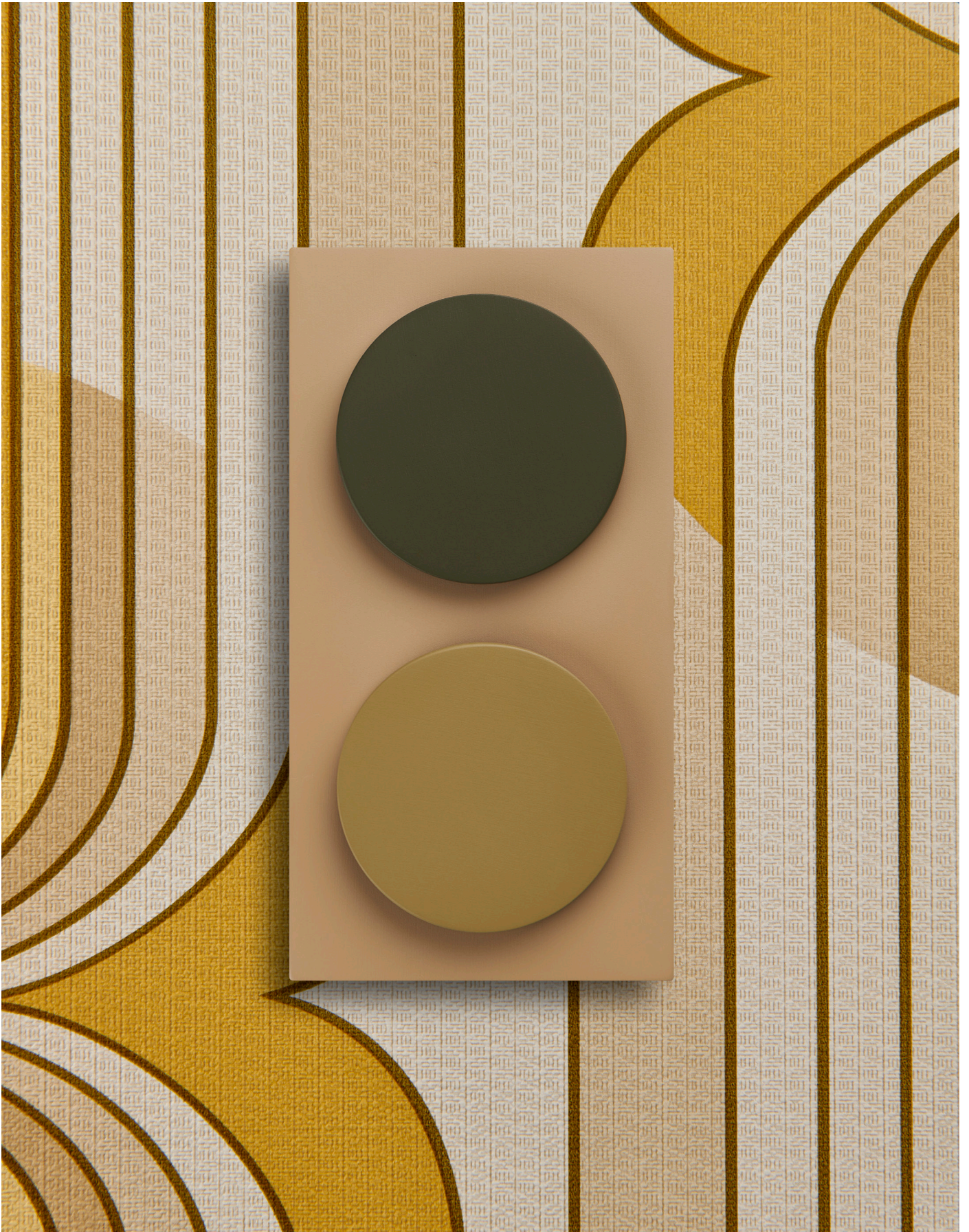


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**MONO** collection  
Civil series

- **Material:** 6082 aluminium
- **Treatment:** varnishing
- **Finish:** innovative CeraKote ceramic film
- **Technology:** in house developed proprietary electronic boards
- **Body shape and dimensions:** square 80×80 mm; rectangular 80×152 mm
- **Button:** round with 29 mm diameter (from Neo plate, rotative command), 59 mm (pressure command on the cardinal points of the circle)
- **Functions:** turn on and off the light; lower and heighten the intensity of light; lower and raise blinds; open and close curtains; activate music and/or scenarios, etc.







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