

PES-Architects Shanghai
AVARTE Shanghai

Press release 29 September 2017

PES-Architects Shanghai and AVARTE Shanghai – Finnish architecture and design under one roof in Shanghai

Two of the most visionary and internationally recognised Finnish design and architecture companies operating in China, PES-Architects Shanghai and Avarte Shanghai Showroom, have relocated to a joint studio space in Yangpu District Shanghai, near Tongji University, in September 2017.

The aim of the move is to enable flexible use of the shared facilities, which also allows for the organisation of various exhibitions, workshops and lectures at the studio.

The first in a series of events was a joint lecture by Professor Yrjö Kukkapuro, founding partner of Avarte, and Professor Pekka Salminen, founding partner of PES-Architects, at the opening of the studio on Friday, 22 September 2017. The topic of the lectures was Finnish design and architecture in a Chinese context.

PES-Architects and Avarte Shanghai are both pioneers in exporting Finnish design to China. Pekka Salminen and Yrjö Kukkapuro also share a common history of long-term cooperation and friendship. The new studio will be a natural continuation to this cooperation, allowing Yrjö Kukkapuro's furniture and the architecture of Pekka Salminen and PES-Architects, alongside other Finnish design products, to be presented in a Finnish spirit in the same place.

PES-Architects was established in Helsinki in 1968. The company initiated its Chinese operations in 2003 and opened the Shanghai design studio in 2010, with a full Chinese subsidiary registered in 2011. Over the course of its 50-year history, the company has won numerous international architecture competitions and has been featured in multiple international exhibitions and publications. Some of PES-Architects' most notable works in China include the Wuxi Opera House, completed in 2012, the ICON Yunduan Tower in Chengdu, completed in 2017 and the Strait Culture and Art Centre in Fuzhou, set for completion in early 2018. These works are the largest exports of Finnish architecture in the last two decades. In autumn 2016, PES-Architects won the design competition for the Nanjing Sino-Finnish Centre, which is now moving to the planning stage.

Avarte was founded in Helsinki in 1981 to manufacture and sell Yrjö Kukkapuro's furniture. Kukkapuro's collaboration with Chinese design and architecture began in 1995 and has consolidated over the past 20 years. Avarte Shanghai was founded in 1998 by Wang Wuyi, the company's current director and owner, to produce and market Avarte products and a variety of other Finnish design icons. Globalisation has changed the manufacturing and marketing flows of all design, and Avarte Shanghai now manufactures and markets all of Yrjö Kukkapuro's internationally awarded furniture on the global market.

Today, Avarte Shanghai produces a wide range of inspiring furniture for the creation of unique and functional spaces. The company's target main markets are office and education spaces. Avarte has successfully created inspiring environments for Lenovo, NIO, universities and international schools across China.

For further information, please contact:

PES-Architects Shanghai

Xiaoming Tan	(Chinese)	+86 139 1664 0784	xiaoming.tan@pesark.com
Jyri Eskola	(English)	+86 150 2164 1440	jyri.eskola@pesark.com

Avarte Shanghai

Cynthia Chang		+86 152 2199 9750	cynthia@avarte-cn.com
---------------	--	-------------------	-----------------------