

Circular Flows: The Toilet Revolution!

EOOS Press release
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The Austrian design studio EOOS presents the Urine Separation Toilet at the XXII International Exhibition of La Triennale di Milano in response to a global ecological challenge

It is one of the most pressing environmental problems of our time and yet largely unknown: the pollution of our waters by nitrogen. The renowned Viennese design studio EOOS has developed a revolutionary prototype of a toilet for urine separation—*Urine Trap*—which offers a systemic design solution to fight the global nitrogen problem.

At the XXII Triennale di Milano with the focal theme *Broken Nature: Design Takes on Human Survival* EOOS will present a multimedia installation that illustrates the ecological interplay of coastal waters, sewage systems, and agriculture.

The centerpiece of the installation is the *Urine Trap*, a prototype developed for the separate treatment of water, feces, and urine. Urine constitutes approximately 80% of the nitrogen found in sewage. In combination with nitrogen from industrial fertilizers used in agriculture, it ends up in our rivers and flows to estuaries and coastal areas, where exponential algal bloom deprives other organisms of vital oxygen. This leads to dead zones where life in water is no longer possible—there are more than 50 of such coastal regions in Europe alone.

A digital projection (by Process Studio, Vienna, light design by Zumtobel) visualizes how this linear and environmentally hazardous logic can be transformed into a sustainable cycle: With the aid of the urine separation toilet, urine can be recirculated back into agriculture, where the element nitrogen is an important nutrient. Further developed together with the Swiss ceramics manufacturer LAUFEN, the *Urine Trap* has been integrated into a conventional flush toilet and as such bears enormous potential for solving a global environmental problem, which is becoming increasingly important in light of the growth of our cities. The exhibition by EOOS demonstrates the contribution the urine separation toilet can make to restoring the natural nitrogen cycle and safeguarding the ecological limits of our planet.

“To date there haven’t been any satisfactory solutions to how urine can be separated in the toilet. With the *Urine Trap* we have created an invisible design that doesn’t force people to change their behavior yet facilitates a new sewage system. In Paris and the surrounding regions along the Seine the introduction of urine separation is being supported with public funding in a pioneering way. The *Urine Trap* will revolutionize the functioning of toilets, just like the siphon once did.”
(Harald Gründl, EOOS)

Press-Download:
<http://presse.artphalanx.at/en/eoos/>

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Urine separation is based on the longstanding research work by Eawag, the Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology, for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation with the aim to reinvent the toilet. In collaboration with EOOS they developed the *Blue Diversion Toilet*, which was tested in different developing countries. On March 12, 2019, in the framework of the ISH trade fair in Frankfurt, LAUFEN will be the first ceramics manufacturer in the world to present the *Urine Trap* in a flush toilet designed by EOOS.

EOOS

The client list of the highly acclaimed international design studio EOOS (Martin Bergmann, Gernot Bohmann, and Harald Gründl) includes brands such as Adidas, Alessi, Armani, bulthaup, Walter Knoll, LAUFEN, Herman Miller, Zumtobel, and many more. For several years now EOOS has also dedicated their time to projects in social and sustainable design and developed contributions to the International Architecture Exhibition La Biennale di Venezia 2016 or the VIENNA BIENNALE 2017.

The contribution to the XXII International Exhibition of La Triennale di Milano is commissioned by MAK – Museum for Applied Arts and financed by the Federal Chancellery of Austria.

<http://www.eoos.com> / <http://www.urinetrap.com>
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XXII International exhibition of La Triennale di Milano 2019
March 1 – September 1, 2019
<http://www.triennale.org> / <http://www.brokennature.org>

Concept, Design, and Installation:	EOOS
Commissioner:	Christoph Thun-Hohenstein, General Director and Artistic Director, MAK
Curator:	Marlies Wirth, Curator Digital Culture and Design Collection, MAK
Animation and Graphic Design:	Process Studio Vienna
<i>Urine Trap</i> Toilet:	LAUFEN
Light Display:	Zumtobel