

## **CMP INSPIRATION Inaugural Exhibition, Curated by nendo**

Featuring five thematic areas and over a hundred iconic designs and fresh creations, this exhibition redefines the contours of everyday life and invites visitors on a unique journey through this landscape-inspired museum.



After eight years, the Japanese design studio nendo returns to Taiwan with the inaugural exhibition of CMP INSPIRATION in Taichung. *OUTLINES IN BETWEEN* is set to spark imagination through innovative design concepts and creative ideas. (Photo Credit: CMP INSPIRATION, Photography by Chen Yang)

### **Architecture x Exhibition: A Creative Relay by Two Masters**

On December 13th (Friday), the highly anticipated CMP INSPIRATION will officially open its doors with an inaugural exhibition curated by Japan's brilliant designer Oki Sato and his team at nendo. This exhibition is poised to shine in a global spotlight on Taichung's Calligraphy Greenway. Recognized for their creative work spanning architecture, design, and art, nendo has garnered numerous international awards. Their creations are part of the collections at prestigious institutions such as the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Victoria and Albert Museum in the UK, and the Centre Pompidou in France. After an eight-year hiatus, nendo returns to Taiwan with *OUTLINES IN BETWEEN*, an exhibition that celebrates creativity in daily life. Organized around five thematic areas—Rain, Clouds, Paper, Lines, and Stone—this exhibition transforms familiar elements into experiences that resonate with viewers. It also showcases nendo's two-decade-long philosophy of artistic creation through soft ideas.

As CMP INSPIRATION's first invited artist following its opening, Oki Sato remarked, "it's like a challenge letter sent from Kengo Kuma to examine how to curate an interesting exhibition in this space." This exhibition features over a hundred sketches, iconic designs, and new creations set against the rhythmic curves of the museum's architecture, designed by Japanese master Kengo Kuma. Highlights include the *clustered clouds* series, inspired by stacked clouds and mist and first showcased at Milan Design Week 2024, as well as the *softer than stone* marble furniture series, newly created for CMP INSPIRATION. Additionally, the Pokémon Mosaic collection, developed in collaboration with The Pokémon Company in 2023, will make its Taiwanese debut, with limited-edition merchandise available during the exhibition. The five thematic areas—Rain, Clouds, Paper, Lines, and Stone—creatively utilize the museum's spatial characteristics, turning the exhibition into a unique adventure that sparks imagination.



[OUTLINES IN BETWEEN](#) brings together over a hundred works by nendo, including the *clustered clouds* series, a 2024 creation inspired by clouds and mist. This piece uses perforated metal materials and geometric lines to create a captivating interplay of transparency and illusion. (Photo Credit: CMP INSPIRATION, Photography by Chen Yang)

## **CMP INSPIRATION: Sparking Creative Light Bulb Moments Through Exhibitions**

CMP INSPIRATION CEO, Jonas Ho, remarked, "nendo always finds new perspectives within existing frameworks. Their works are full of sharp observation and humor, highly creative, and perfectly aligned with users' needs. This inspired the idea of inviting them for this exhibition." CMP INSPIRATION strives to be a place that ignites imagination. Over the years, the museum has devoted itself to exploring the multifaceted nature of art through accessible, creative language. This philosophy also aligns perfectly with nendo's creative essence.

Jonas Ho continued, "Many times, new ideas do not come from something entirely new, but from the subtle details of life seen from different perspectives. It's about capturing the surprises that others overlook, and these sparks have always been present in our lives." Looking back on human development, whether in environmental ecology, scientific industry, humanities and arts, or creative design, imagination has always been the root of innovation. This is the core spirit that propels the museum. CMP INSPIRATION seeks to uncover life's hidden wonders, explore the extraordinary within the ordinary while embracing the curatorial philosophy of "popular themes, niche interpretations; niche themes, popular interpretations." Looking ahead, CMP INSPIRATION will continue to break boundaries through exhibitions, Calligraphy Greenway projects, children's education, curated lifestyle selections and dining experiences, all designed to encourage viewers to explore possibilities and empower them to pursue their dreams.

### **Nendo: Focusing on Contours to Create New Virtual Realities**

Nendo's inspiration has always been deeply rooted in daily life. *OUTLINES IN BETWEEN* conveys nendo's fundamental design philosophy: design should focus on contours at varying levels to create new virtual realities. "By blurring the outlines of familiar objects, shifting, zooming in, or overlapping them, I am fascinated by designs and techniques developed from this perspective. We hope to share our viewpoint through this exhibition and help people enrich their everyday lives," said Oki Sato.

The *50 manga chairs* series draws inspiration from the lines found in manga, such as sweat, speech bubbles, impact, and shine, captured through contouring techniques. This transforms the lines from a flat dimension into real design expressions, creating new visual experiences in everyday life. The iconic *rain bottle* series follows the Japanese kanji descriptions of different types of rain, collecting twenty variations of raindrops into transparent bottles. 'Kirisame', 'biu' or 'kosame' refer to different degrees of fine drizzle. 'Mizore' is rain that mingles with melting snow as it falls. These rain bottles showcase seasonal rains and rains at different levels to bring a fresh contextual imagination to Taiwan's rainy winter.

In addition, nendo's latest work, *softer than stone*, specifically created for CMP INSPIRATION, features a marble bench, console table, and shelf, all of which will be on permanent display at the museum. This public furniture series invites viewers to interact and experience the pieces. The work challenges the preconceived notion of stone as hard and cold, employing overlapping lines and polishing techniques that give the materials a soft, fluid, fabric-like visual texture. Oki Sato commented, "Exhibits that invite viewers to touch the works are rare on the world stage, and CMP INSPIRATION's arrangement is truly unique. As creators, we encourage everyone to touch the works as much as possible."



The *softer than stone* series makes its debut at CMP INSPIRATION, featuring details that break the conventional boundaries of stone. These pieces will be on permanent display, inviting the public to interact with and experience them. (Photo Credit: CMP INSPIRATION, Photography by Chen Yang)

## Exhibition Bonus: nendo Collaboration Series Debuts in Taiwan

In addition to the five thematic areas of Rain, Clouds, Paper, Lines, Stone, the Pokémon Mosaic collection—nendo's 2023 collaboration with The Pokémon Company—will make its first appearance outside Japan at CMP INSPIRATION in Taichung. This series transforms Pokémon characters and colors into abstract lines, creating designs reminiscent of mosaic tiles or stained glass. The collection includes 75 limited-edition lifestyle items, including wall clocks, tableware, cushions, storage bags, and seat cushions, bringing joy to both children and adults who grew up loving Pokémon.

As visitors explore the exhibition, they can shop for Pokémon Mosaic limited edition items and take a closer look at nendo's approach to reimagining Pokémon imagery. Exclusive sculptures of Pikachu and Charizard, adorned with mosaic patterns, are also on display. A decorated room setting and photo area offer an interactive experience, showcasing how Pokémon Mosaic can integrate into everyday life.

OUTLINES IN BETWEEN celebrated creativity in both design and everyday life. CMP INSPIRATION welcomes visitors of all ages to discover nendo's creative world and the boundless potentials of creativity. The exhibition runs from Friday, December 13, 2024, to Sunday, June 1, 2025. Visit CMP INSPIRATION to break the traditional boundaries and explore the limitless potential of imagination.



The Pokémon Mosaic collection arrives in Taiwan alongside the exhibition. This series creatively reimagines Pokémon imagery and provides visitors with the chance to collect limited-edition items.  
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