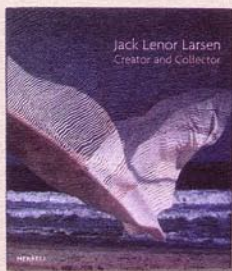


Jack Lenor Larsen: Creator and Collector

David Revere McFadden, Mildred Friedman, Lotus Stack, Jack Lenor Larsen. Merrell in conjunction with an exhibition, Museum of Arts and Design, New York. ISBN 1 85894 217 9 £29.95



Jack Lenor Larsen is an American weaver and textile designer of enormous significance. Over five decades he has accumulated an astounding archive of textiles, glass, ceramics, wood and metal, and furniture and objects from all over the world. In his Long Island home, they illustrate the creative life of a man passionate about design.

Larsen's love of nature links these parallel worlds of creator and collector, which he brings into everything he designs and collects, placing both carefully within his home, itself inspired by a 7th century Japanese Shinto shrine. Here his landscaping and design of the environment merges seamlessly with the objects themselves.

He began training as an architect in the 1950s and, through weaving, made the 'transition from architecture to fabric'. The combining of textiles, architecture, objects and nature is a leitmotif of his long career.

The book is divided into five diverse sections. Larsen's trademark, experimental *Light and Transparent* fabrics make up the first section. *Surface and Texture* illustrates his highly textured fabrics with collected organic vessels in ceramic and metal. *Pattern and Colour* reflects his preference for natural, earthy colours and his use of secondary and tertiary colours. Concluding chapters *Form and Structure* and *Context and Commissions* concentrate on how his work has been placed within specific architectural spaces.

The text of this engaging book reveals the breadth of history that has influenced and formed Larsen's work. Larsen's interest in architecture, nature, travel and artefacts from all over the world gives his work a wider appeal. He has produced textiles in collaboration with designers and artists from over 60 countries and endeavoured to bring obscure ethnic production methods into a more commercial realm. ●●● Ptolemy Mann