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Object Lessons

“Design is One”: A Vignelli Documentary Launches the Architecture and Design Film Festival

OCTOBER 18, 2012

The Vignellis are a pair whose influence is so grand in scope it generally slips under the radar; it comes in the form of subway signs and indispensable typefaces, designs that are ubiquitous, yet rarely considered. Tonight, the fourth installment of the Architecture & Design Film Festival (<http://adfilmfest.com/portal/adff>) kicks off at Tribeca Cinemas with “Design Is One: Lella and Massimo Vignelli,” an ode to the prolific husband-and-wife team.

Kathy Brew and **Roberto Guerra**’s documentary charts more than four decades of their product, industrial, graphic, and architectural design achievements through interviews and anecdotes from a few notable fans: **Richard Meier**, **Peter Eisenman**, and **Milton Glaser**, just to name a few. We can expect the real treat to actually be the footage of the Vignellis. The two naturally emanate a humanity and warmth, but it’s Massimo’s wry charms that are bound to win us over.

The Architecture & Design Film Festival runs through Sunday. For the full schedule, [click here \(http://adfilmfest.com/ny2012/docs/ADFF_NY2012_schedule.pdf\)](http://adfilmfest.com/ny2012/docs/ADFF_NY2012_schedule.pdf).

— Janelle Zara