



32 Joanna Lyle
design Centre piece bowl Chimu
materials Stainless steel, wood, aluminium
dimensions h 13.5cm d 24cm
h 5in d 10 1/2in
manufacturer Alessi, Italy

Michael Graves's Bird and Mickey kettles for Alessi have been taken either as the *ne plus ultra* of post-Modernism, or proof of its logical dead-end, depending on your point of view. But if Alessi designs then hall-marked the 1980s, its current design policy is broader and maturer, with the emphasis moving to younger designers, to themed designs as well as narrative ones. Alberto Alessi attributes the success of his commissions in design to the ability of designers to create 'transitional objects', which enable the user to translate experiences and emotions from one context to another. Design, for him, 'is a global creative discipline with a strictly artistic and poetic matrix.'

