

**ALESSI**



**MENHIR**  
MICHAEL ANASTASSIADES

# INDEX

<b>Menhir - A steel sculpture</b>	01
Dedicated to	01
Designer	02
Components	03
Design notes	03
Sustainability and safety	03
Use and maintenance	03
Codes and variants	04
Related products	04

# A STEEL SCULPTURE

Starting from the 9090, designed by Richard Sapper in 1979, Alessi has created a series of espresso coffee makers that over time have become iconic objects. With the Menhir espresso coffee maker, the company boldly returns to that tradition, presenting an object with consummate, clean, concise lines. The name Menhir immediately brings to mind the power of a form with great emblematic presence: for a new design ritual.



## DEDICATED TO

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Dedicated to design aficionados who seek exquisite manufacture and attention to detail in their objects: a real workshop gem.

## DESIGNER

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Michael Anastassiades grew up in Cyprus, but moved to London to study engineering and design, and opened his studio there in 1994. His design includes industrial products, craft-based objects, and experiments he pursues on his own, taking inspiration from art and different creative fields. Its execution is guided by poetically interpreted technology, materials and functions. Anastassiades has received numerous awards, including a Compasso d'Oro. His work is found in the permanent collections of important international museums such as the MoMA in New York and the Victoria & Albert Museum in London.

"There is something magical about the image of these mysterious "long stones" carefully positioned in the landscape.

The Menhir's purpose still remains speculative. Various theories suggest that these monoliths might have existed as territorial markers, or elements of an ideological system, or that they were associated with religious ceremonies and other rituals.

Today, I can only speak of one of the most important modern daily rituals; that of making coffee.

I was excited by the challenge of designing the Moka, the most iconic tool used for its preparation.

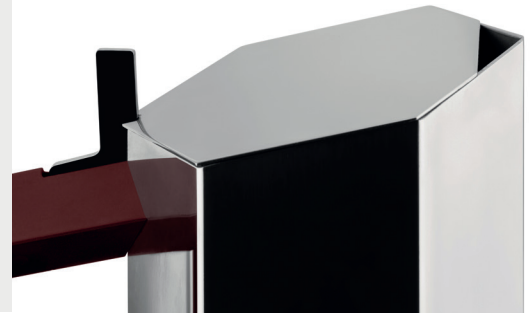
The historical octagonal pot became my starting reference. I began the exercise by attempting to distil the image down to the most recognisable parts. My focus was the faceted geometry as a metaphor for the flutes in a classical column. I reduced the number of facets to the minimum, while still managing to retain a classical column-like appearance. I wanted an even number of sides, so that I could integrate the spout as part of the main body by using one point along the symmetrical axis to naturally pour from. I made a cut of 15 degrees through the top part of the body to highlight a direction of use, with the lower point becoming the obvious place where I could attach the handle. I made the profile of the handle as a square, reducing the number of sides by two, rotated by 45 degrees, so that two edges would meet each other at the point of attachment. At the place where the handles turns down, I introduced a cut to create a diamond shape, providing a flat face to rest the thumb on when using it to pour.

The polished steel creates a series of mirrors that reflect the room all around from where the object is placed. It reminds me of a rolled-up backdrop from a magnetic, dancer inside a lidded box." ♦ Michael Anastassiades

## COMPONENTS

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Espresso coffee maker comprised of the usual elements: a chamber for the water, a filter and a container with a handle, where the coffee collects once ready. The 6-cup version includes a reducer which can be used to make just 3 cups of coffee.



## DESIGN NOTES

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### **A new icon**

A statuesque shape: a design object to leave on display on the table after pouring your guests a delicious cup of coffee.

### **Coffee and steel**

The steel used to produce Menhir ensures safety, strength and durability: for a coffee maker that will be a reliable kitchen companion for many years.

### **The power of a shape**

Renowned for creating a series of lamps with minimalist, enigmatic and poetic lines, Michael Anastassiades unexpectedly embraces a key object of Italian kitchens, affirming once again the expressive power that he injects into his projects.

## SUSTAINABILITY AND SAFETY

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Made in Italy, in the Alessi factory at Crusinallo, Omegna.

The body is made of steel, one of the most durable and resilient materials of all, eco-friendly throughout its life cycle and completely recyclable.

## USE AND MAINTENANCE

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**[Easy to use]** Fill the bottom chamber with cold water, taking care not to fill above the safety valve. Place the funnel filter in the chamber. Fill the filter with coffee without pressing down too hard. Close by screwing the top and bottom chambers together.

**[Easy to clean]** Wash with warm running water and a non-abrasive cloth. Do not wash in the dishwasher.

**[Simple to maintain]** Clean the upper micro-filter periodically; in the event of damage, the handle, funnel filter, upper micro-filter and the silicone rubber seal can be replaced. Both versions can be used on induction hobs.

## CODES AND VARIANTS

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MA01 - Menhir  
Design Michael Anastassiades, 2024



MA01/3 - Menhir  
Espresso coffee maker in 18/10 stainless steel. Handle in thermoplastic resin, Burgundy. Boiler in magnetic steel also suitable for induction cooking. 3 cups.  
cl 15 - cm 14 x cm 7,5 - h cm 18

MA01/6 - Menhir  
Espresso coffee maker in 18/10 stainless steel. Handle in thermoplastic resin, Burgundy. Magnetic steel bottom also suitable for induction cooking. 6 cups. 3-cups filter adapter.  
cl 30 - cm 15 x cm 8,5 - h cm 21,5

## RELATED PRODUCTS

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DC03/76 - Tonale  
Design David Chipperfield, 2018  
Mini-cup in stoneware.  
cl 8 - Ø cm 6 - h cm 5

DC03/77 - Tonale  
Design David Chipperfield, 2018  
Mini-plate in stoneware.  
Ø cm 12



MSPOON - Il caffè/tè Alessi  
Design AA.VV., 2010  
Set of 8 coffee spoons in 18/10 stainless steel mirror polished.



90023  
Design Aldo Rossi, 1989  
Creamer in 18/10 stainless steel.  
cl 15,5 - Ø cm 5,9 - h cm 7,2



90024  
Design Aldo Rossi, 1989  
Sugar bowl with spoon in 18/10 stainless steel mirror polished.  
cl 26,5 - Ø cm 6,8 - h cm 15,3