

STEELWAVE

Alberto Alessi got to know Satyendra Pakhalé's Bell Metal (B.M.) Objects at the *Design Beyond Europe* exhibition curated by Paola Antonelli, Giulio Cappellini and Vanni Pasca at Abitare il Tempo Verona, 1999. Alessi was fascinated by the B.M. Objects – which had been well received for their contemporary interpretation of the age-old lost wax casting process. With their unique craftsmanship rooted in a specific culture and revived as a way of creating objects, they generated interest in Pakhalé's design works. The president of the iconic Italian dream factory invited Pakhalé to design a collection of objects and so began a long investigation into numerous typologies in stainless steel for Alessi.

The idea behind the Steel Wave project was to explore in stainless steel the sensorial qualities embodied in the B.M. Objects. After early meetings between Alberto Alessi and Satyendra Pakhalé, the idea was to prototype his designs in stainless steel. The continuous research and development undertaken by Alessi in collaboration with Pakhalé resulted in several prototypes. It turned out to be long process of design and product development, starting with Steel Wave Vase and later moving on to sets of serving bowls, plates, fruit bowls, trays, a candlestick, eggcup, incense stick holder and so on. Numerous prototypes were developed between 2000 and 2005.

The Steel Wave Family project was once again revised during 2011–2012. New typologies of objects, such as a tea strainer, were designed and developed. After another round of meetings with Alberto Alessi and Satyendra Pakhalé, it was decided he should focus on making a smaller object in order to develop an additive manufacturing process. The tea strainer was the first prototype made by Alessi's technical office in 2012, based on Pakhalé's design concept. The idea was to make a tea set. This would not only help to communicate the concept behind the project, but also create a small family of objects that could grow into a collection. For various reasons the initial objective, to bring the sensorial qualities and the tactility of the B.M. Objects to the Steelwave Family, did not succeed. Nevertheless, the project is still in development and is likely to see the light of the day at some future date. Meanwhile the Steelwave Family prototypes became part of the ongoing exhibition, *Alessi IN-possible*, and of the collection of Museo Alessi.



A



B



C



D

A Steelwave studies for a set of bowls with variations in wave formation in stainless steel.

B Two bowl studies with two variations of base details.

C, D Prototypes of baskets and saucer.



E



F



G

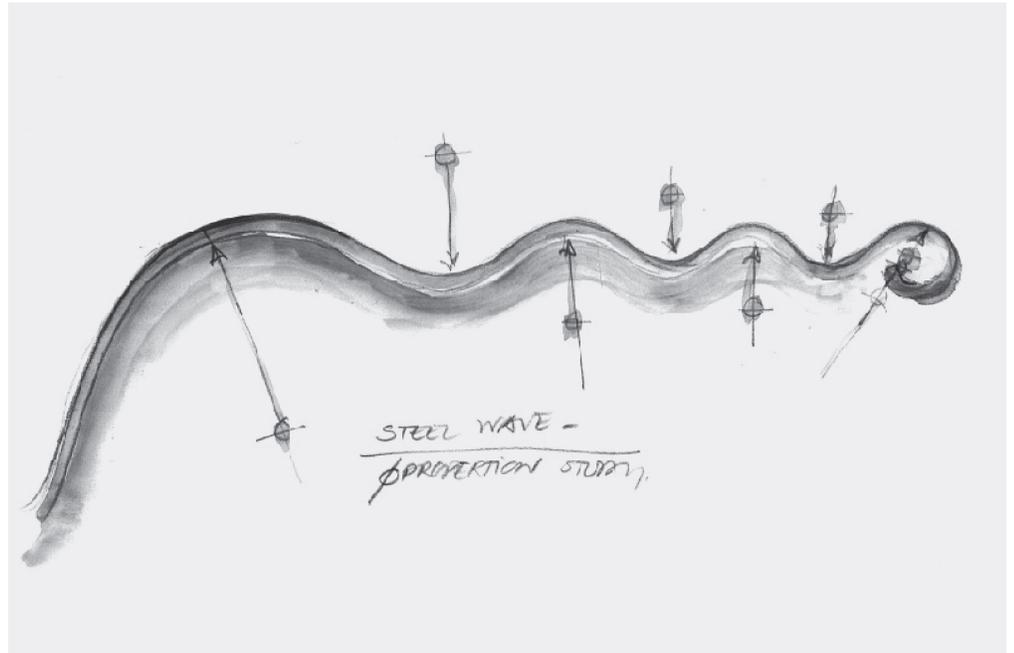


H

E Incense stick holder study with integral feet detail.

F, G Refined study of bowl and tray in stainless steel.

H Prototype of basket with handle.



I Illustration showing the journey from the first generation B.M. Objects to the prototype Steelwave objects and from there to the third generation B.M. Objects and further developments of the Steelwave Family.

J,K Evolution of of the steel wave idea, inspired by the ripple effect when a pebble is dropped into water, as shown in the design sketch and model cross-section.

L Prototype set of three trays.



M



N



O

M The Steelwave Vase with incremental pattern.

N A set of two ceramic serving bowls with stainless steel lid and small tray.

O A set of sugar and creamer prototype ceramic sugar and creamer set with stainless steel base.