

Montblanc's Lead Designer Goes Solo



Left and right—Jan Zander Design Studio Alter Ego fountain pens in black German ebonite with platinum-plated accents and bicolor 14 karat gold nib and Grenadilla wood with rose gold-plated accents and bicolor 14 karat gold nib. Below and bottom—Cocoon fountain pens in black, brown, blue, red, and green leather; brown leather Cocoon fountain pen with 14 karat gold nib.



Jan Zander, a native of Hamburg, Germany, spent 22 years as lead designer for Montblanc writing instruments. Among the many Montblanc writing instruments he designed are the Artisan Edition James Watt, Great Characters Albert Einstein, Artisan Edition Salvador Dalí, and Patron of Arts Andrew Carnegie collections.

In 2018, Zander left the “grind” of designing for a major luxury firm to pursue his own writing instrument creations with the Jan Zander Design Studio, located in Hamburg. After over two years of preparation, Zander released his first self-produced writing instruments in the fall of 2021 at Hamburg’s Papermole stationery shop.

“The guests and first customers were thrilled with the design, feel, and quality. I was more than overwhelmed by the response,” Zander recalls of the initial reaction to his first writing instruments.

The Jan Zander Design Studio features cartridge/converter-filling fountain pens with 14 karat gold or stainless steel nibs, rollerballs, and ballpoints with strict lines, clear proportions, and user-friendly design elements. In addition to custom, bespoke work upon a client’s request, Zander also offers business-to-business design services, such as his current work designing for Germany’s Lamy.

Zander’s initial releases for his own Design Studio are categorized into three distinct collections.

The Jan Zander Design Studio Alter Ego collection of cartridge/converter-filling fountain pens, rollerballs, and ballpoints have bodies of German ebonite or Grenadilla hardwood hand-turned into a rounded body and matched to platinum-, rose gold-, or yellow gold-plated sections and clips. The pen is finished with a Jan Zander Design cap crown lacquered logo.



Jan Zander Imagine fountain pen with carbon fiber body, matte platinum-plated section, and interchangeable clips, with bicolor 14 karat gold nib.

The Cocoon collection provides the answer to the question, "What if a leather pen case was actually part of the pen?" The Cocoon's barrel is actually made of vegetable leather with a matching pen sleeve working as the pen's cap, alleviating the need for a clip on this pocket-size writing instrument. Currently available as a brown, black, red, or green leather cartridge/converter-filling fountain pen, a rollerball version will release soon.

The traditional, flat-top body of the Imagine line features a matte-finished carbon fiber body matched to a matte platinum- or gold-plated section and an interchangeable clip. The Imagine collection features a magnetic closure system and is available with either stainless steel or 14 karat gold nibs.

As one would expect from the former lead designer of Montblanc fountain pens, Zander offers a number of nib options: bicolor 14 karat gold, stainless steel, gold-plated stainless steel, rose gold-plated stainless steel, and even a titanium nib option. The Bock nibs are available in extra-fine, fine, medium, broad, and double-broad.

Currently Zander's writing instruments are available in person at Hamburg's Papermoles and at Papeterie in Berlin, Germany, "and slowly I would like to bring my products to the big cities," he says. "Of course I would like to see my writing instruments in the American market as well, maybe through someone here from the *Pen World* community."

Pen World community, take note: the work of Jan Zander is calling you! Visit janzanderdesign.com.

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