Opinions on corporate and brand identity work.

A division of **UnderConsideration**.

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Everything ever!

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New Logo and Identity for Lot61 by Smörgåsbord

Reviewed

Wait 'til you get a Lot of this one



before

after

Reviewed Aug. 12, 2020 by Armin Comments (9)

Industry / Restaurant Tags / #amsterdam#coffee#geometric#packaging#wordmark

Established in 2013, <u>Lot61</u> is a specialty coffee roaster based in Amsterdam, Netherlands, with one retail location and a booming wholesale business. Started by two friends and business partners who have known each other since their childhood growing up in Australia, later opening multiple coffee bars in New York, Lot61 was a big part of kickstarting the "<u>third-wave coffee</u>" scene in Amsterdam when the two set up shop seven years ago. Ethically sourced from farms that have been implementing environment and social responsibility, Lot61 is on a mission to be "the most circular specialty coffee brand to ever exist". In the meantime, they have introduced a new identity, designed by local firm <u>Smörgåsbord</u>.

LOT61 had been going through somewhat of an 'identity crisis' adopting two or three brands in as many years. In business terms being too busy roasting and selling coffee to focus on future brand strategy and positioning is not such a bad thing but the owners deemed 2020 the time to align and elevate the brand. Our brief was to create a contemporary brand with longevity and a baked-in 'sense of place'.

It's no secret that the coffee sector is well served with thoughtfully designed brands so we set about making LOT61 stand out from the crowd. We started by doing an inventory of the world's leading coffee brands, placing them into one of four (aesthetic) categories: Minimal/Hipster; Traditional/Established; Source/Origin; and Mainstream. We sought to position LOT61 at the intersection of the first two categories which led us to look at the Amsterdam School of Architecture for inspiration.









Samples of old identity.

The new logotype is informed by the Amsterdam School — a style of architecture that arose in the city between 1910 and 1930. Whilst dialled up with some contemporary touches it retains its 'sense of place'. The hand drawn characters' 'thicks' and 'thins' are all 2:1.



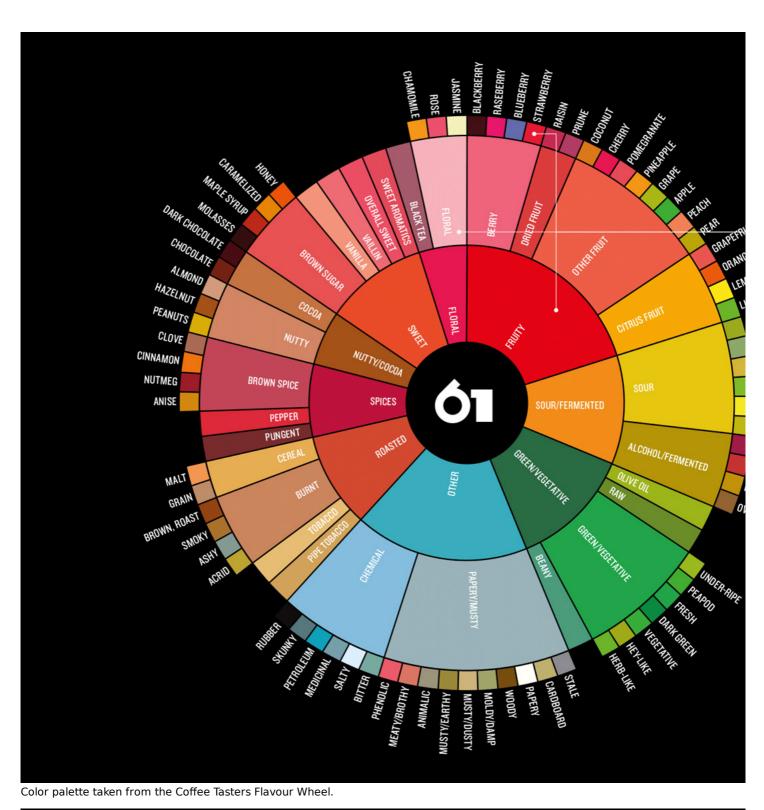
Logo.



Logo construction.

The old logo was so strange for a coffee shop and brand, looking far too corporate and the emphasis on the "X" made it feel very harsh. Nonetheless, to their credit, they had managed to cobble together a decent identity out of it. The new logo goes for the more compact "LOT61" spelling which leads to a very pleasing stick-circle-stick-circle-stick configuration that highlights the quirky 2-to-1 ratio of the thicks and thins in the letterforms. It's not a super easy read — it can almost be interpreted as "Loto1" — but once you know the name of the business it's all good. There are moments where the stark contrast of volume between each of the letters throws me off but, in the end, I really like the new logo, in part because it takes the geometric sans serif trend into a more exciting territory.

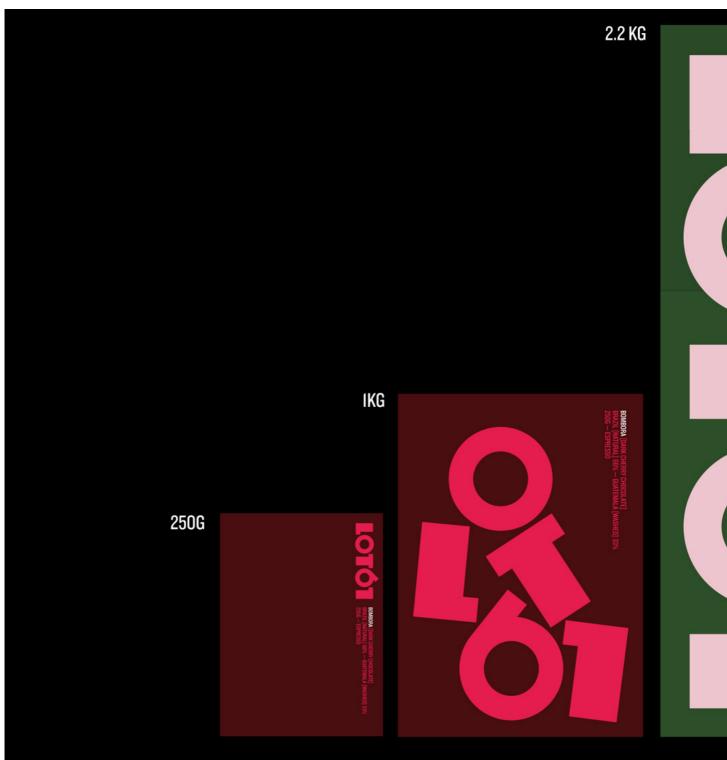
The Coffee Tasters Flavour Wheel was created using the sensory lexicon developed by World Coffee Research. The wheel is beautiful, like the greatest coffees can be, and is an intuitive tool for the coffee taster. It represents a comprehensive and kaleidoscopic picture of coffee flavour but has never been used as the basis for a coffee brand's colour palette — until now.







Flavor/number system.



Bag packaging system.

Many coffee roasters are currently opting for plasticised pouches that would look more at home stuffed with muesli. Our client was keen to use bags that he used to buy in grocery stores in NYC — bags that felt substantial and 'brick like'. The 250g and 2.2kg bags feature the standard logotype whilst the 1kg features a playful, disrupted version.







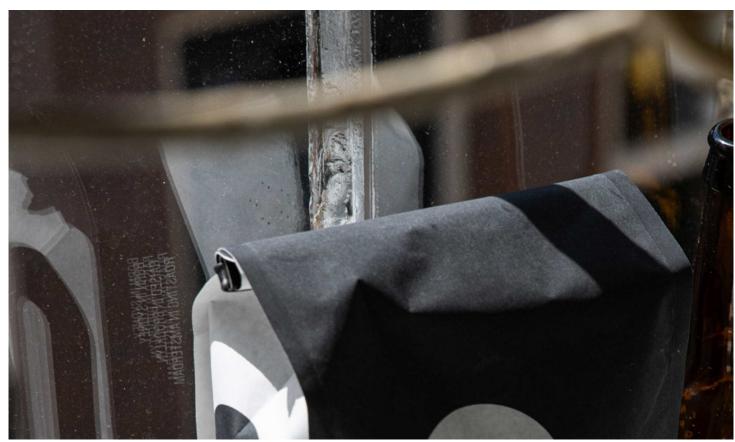






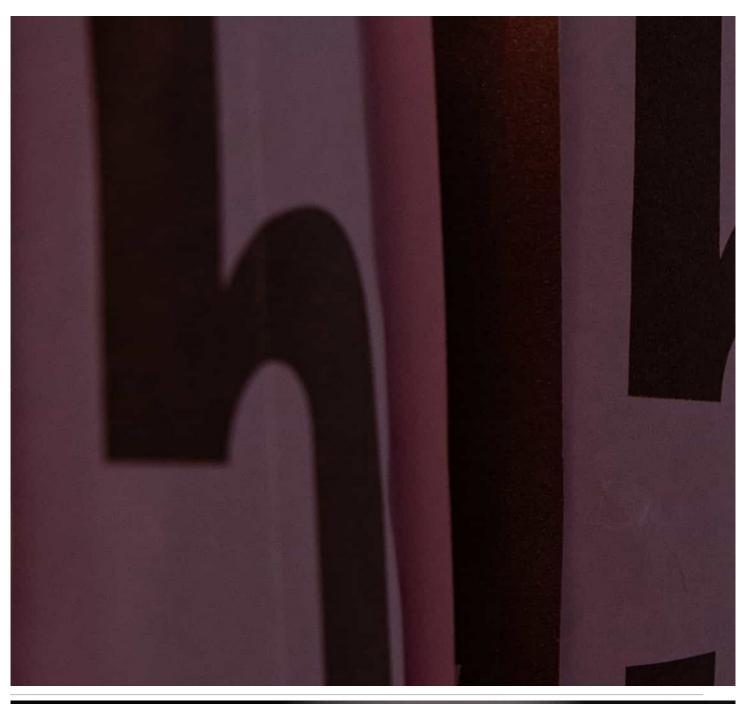
Packaging.

The old packaging was fine and serviceable but these new bags are pretty amazing. The color combinations are great and I love how different the small and big bags look. I would buy the 1-kilo bags for the jumbled logo alone even if it took me a decade to drink all that coffee... except that it wouldn't because coffee is life. The condensed typography on the front of the pack in small and on the side in huge certainly looks good but I wonder if that needed a little bit of weirdness too somehow or a way to tie in more with the logo. Still, I'm a fan.







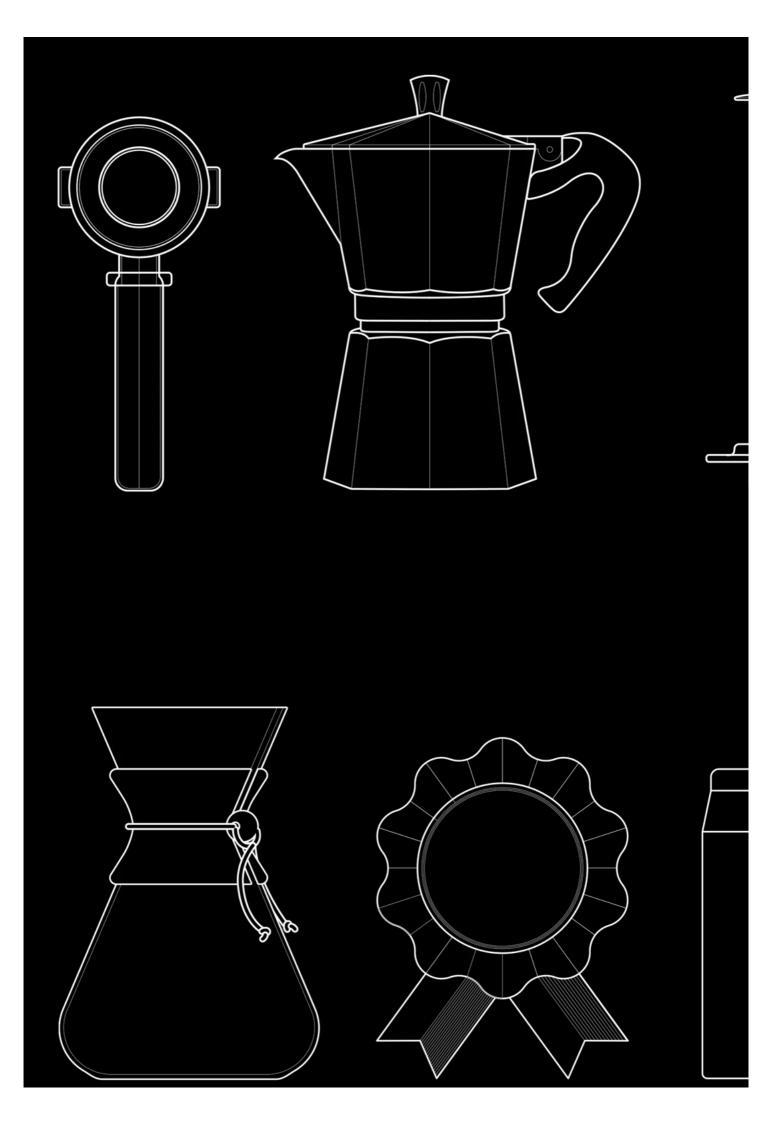




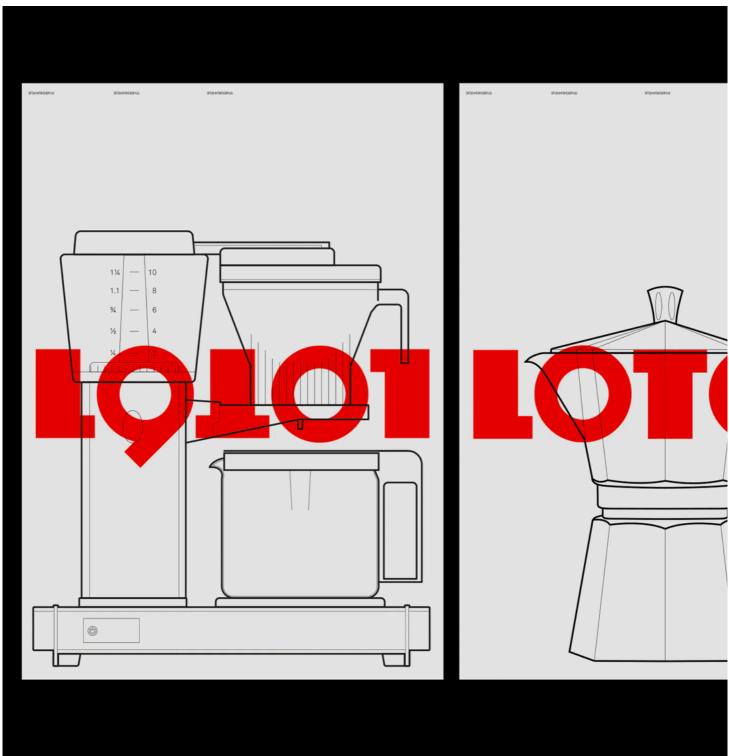


Some hero shots.

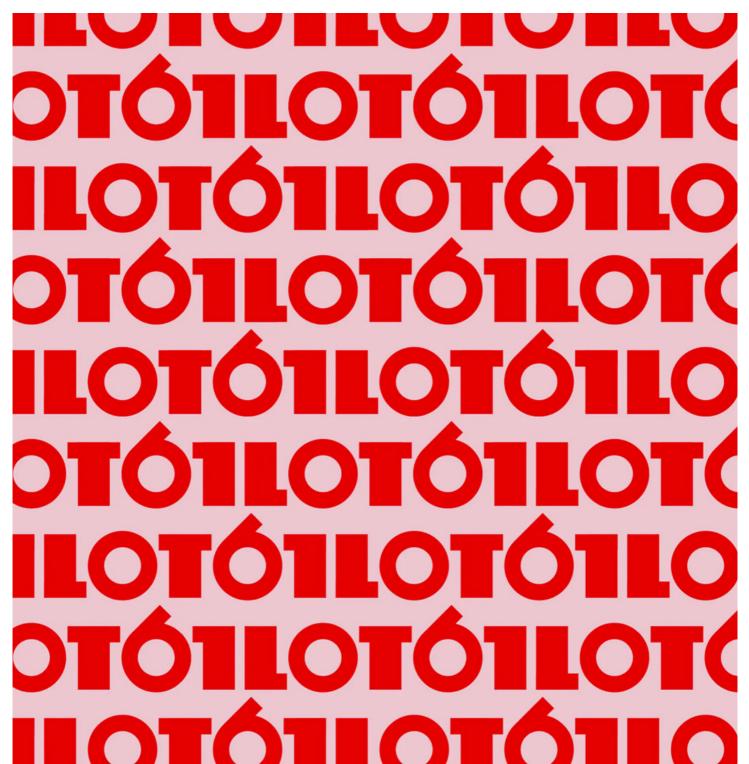




Line drawings of coffee brewing methods.



Posters.



Logo pattern.

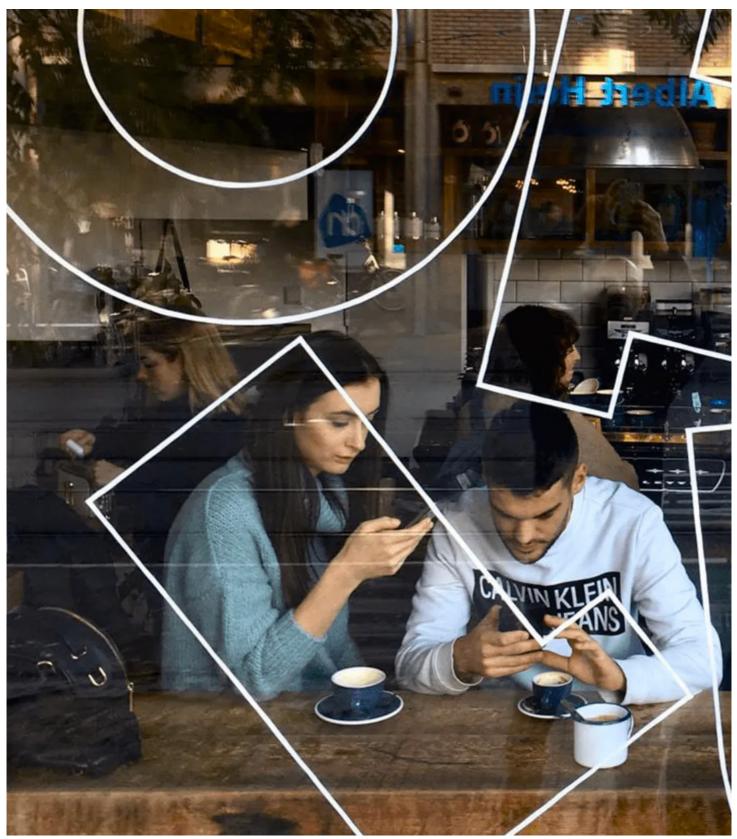


Cup.









Window dressing.

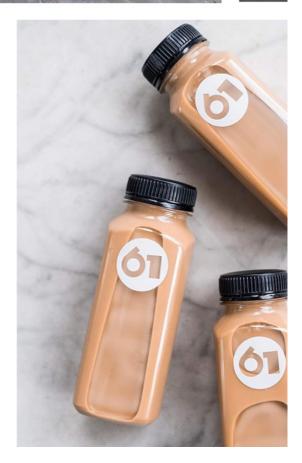


Tote bag.









Samples of new identity from their Instagram page.

From the image grid above you can see that Lot61 has really embraced their logo, putting it on everything possible, including their black espresso-making machine in the top-left corner. The "61" shorthand logo in a circle is a nice extension of the brand that has the potential of making the number itself, regardless of design, a high-recognition element for the small coffee roaster. Overall, I appreciate how this doesn't conform to any general coffee roaster trend — a little on the minimalist side, perhaps — and builds a bold visual language almost through the logo alone.

Your opinion...

On Logo

- Great
- Fine



On Packaging

- Great
- Fine
- Bad

Total
vote view results
close / back to vote

On Packaging

- Great
- Fine
- Bad

Total
vote view results
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Comments

Nonetheless, the rest of the system really works.

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DISQUS

Logo Before & After

Packaging

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Entrepreneurs' Organization

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New Name and Logo for South Dakota Mines

SOUTH DAKOTA



SI

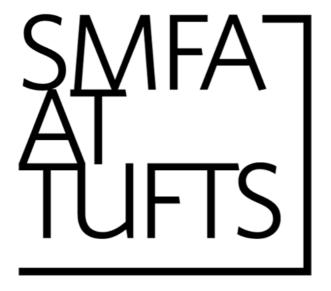
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New Logo and Packaging for Country Archer



Spotted Jul. 30, 2020 Comments (7)

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GoDaddy



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Posted Nov. 12, 2019 Comments (100)

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S A P I E N T R A Z O R F I S H

razorfish

Posted Mar. 17, 2017 Comments (37)

New Logo for Kraft Heinz Company







Posted Jul. 31, 2015 Comments (84)

Temporary Logo for Penguin Random House







Transdev







Posted Jun. 6, 2013 Comments (19)

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