International Lighting Design

by V. Lorenzo Porcelli,

Donna Green and the editors of

International Design magazine

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江苏工业学院图书馆 藏书章

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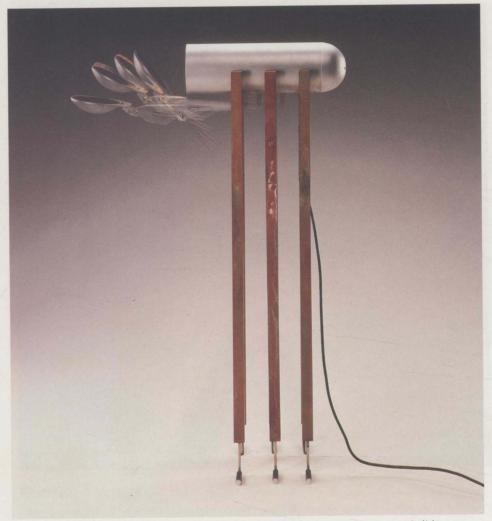
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International Lighting Design is a book that visually celebrates the best and brightest in lighting from around the world. From the boldly futuristic Space II to the ergonomically sound Illuminated Magnifier, from the grandly innovative ArenaVision to the sculpturally poised Fantomas, the lighting presented here conveys the eclectic design spirit of the eighties.

Selected from over 400 examples of lighting submitted to Design Publications in New York over the course of 1989, this book offers a comprehensive overview of contemporary luminaires. Its pages are filled with images of more than 180 outstanding lighting projects designed over the past five years, each one chosen because of its unique contribution to the state of the art. In addition, *International Lighting Design* features eleven behind-the-scene case studies that focus on special lighting projects from the United States, Japan, the

Preface



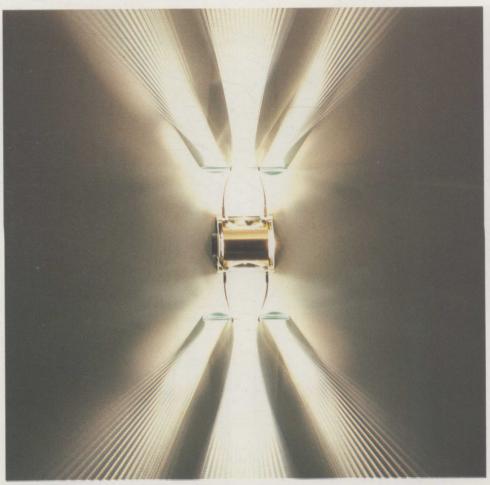
Barking Dog by Morphosis interacts to programmed signals by barking and then opening a flap to expose its light source.

Netherlands, Belgium, Italy and Switzerland. Interviews with the design teams and studies of their sketches and engineering drawings offer unique insights into the creative process.

It is barely one hundred years since Thomas Edison's 1879 discovery of electricity. Since then the light bulb has played a revolutionary role in our everyday lives, illuminating

our homes and workplaces, controlling our moods and perceptions. Yet lighting now has novel connotations and this, in part, can be attributed to significant changes in technology.

Sophisticated remote control systems and sensory electronics, for example, allow designers today to create lights that automatically move, activate, dim and even "talk." Another important new influence is the small but powerful halogen bulb which enables designers to create lamps that burn brightly without necessarily being big, suggesting in some cases that lighting and its electrical components can be touched and manipulated safely. Solid-state electroluminescent panels offer unprecedented dimensions to night lighting and signage; many of today's designers are inventively incorporating this technology in their work. Lasers, fiber optics and holography also offer enormous potential in their ability to



Light Tapestry by Jerome Simon houses a halogen bulb in a tiny metal enclosure.

project and manipulate light, although these possibilities have yet to be incorporated commercially in mainstream lighting design.

But not all the lighting to be seen in *International Lighting Design* is a direct result of fast-paced changes in technology. Contemporary lighting designers are busy experimenting with a variety of unconventional materials to diffuse and reflect light, creating unique environments in the process. Glass, however, remains the material synonymous with lighting and



On Taro Giro by Toshiyuki Kita sets Keith Haring's graphics on an electroluminescent plate, making art that glows in the dark. numerous designs in this book brilliantly explore its transparency and opacity. Many designers are also producing lamps that follow strict ergonomic criteria derived from extensive research into user requirements, while other designers are creating a wide range of lamps that offer multiple functions. And in the fashionable spirit of historicism, some designs pay homage to past styles, while others take their cue from traditional crafts.

Embracing all these different trends, *International Lighting Design* presents the variegated visions of designers, artists, architects and engineers working around the world. Track systems and spotlights, desk lamps and floor lamps, task lights and sconces: the designs here range from the functional to the avant-garde. Indeed, *International Lighting Design* gives us a glimpse not only of contemporary lighting but also of the work of designers who will be responsible for the way our environments are lit in the twenty-first century.

— Donna Green

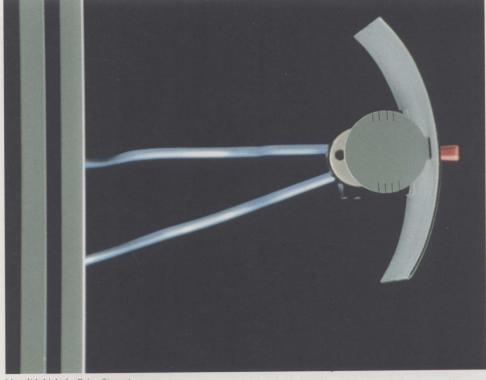
Special acknowledgement and thanks go to a number of people who were involved in putting this book together: to Amy Ancona for her tireless research and caption writing; to the editors of International Design Magazine, Annetta Hanna, Chee Pearlman and Nick Backlund; to Jennifer Domer for her innovative art direction; to designer Robert Rainey and art assistant Jacqueline Thaw; and, finally, to Steven Frank for creating the index.

No one I know seriously uses the term "good design" anymore; how quaint that expression now seems with all its precious connotations. Instead, design is perhaps best seen as something substantive, something that belongs to the real nature of a thing. It was with this in mind that we set about compiling *International Lighting Design*, a book about lighting of the mid- to late eighties—so don't look for any "good design" endorsements in this book. Rather, view *International Lighting Design* as a unique release of design energy that explores divergent directions, contradicting philosophies, sometimes irreverent analogies and metaphors, and makes asymmetrical the boundaries of art, craft and design.

Introduction

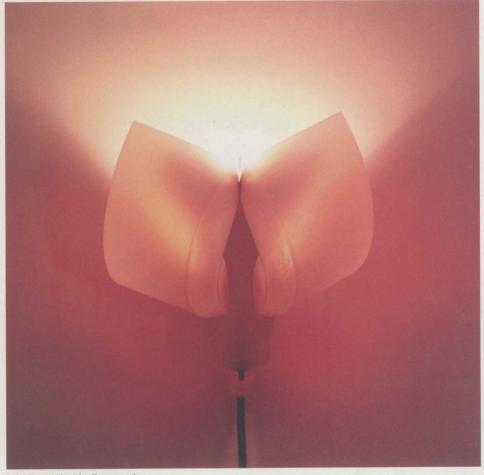
Similarly, *International Lighting Design* is not a critique of lighting nor does it herald any particular movement. It is a book that presents lighting as a collection of ideas, images and philosophies from the present, past and future. On these pages are elements of Cubism, the machine shop ethic, NASA, Shaker design, jazz, Las Vegas, Calder, post-modernism, the Swiss grid, assemblage, Noguchi, performance art and Memphis. Indeed, a review of these pages reveals the multifarious dialects of design flourishing as never before.

Richard Sapper's 1972 Tizio lamp stands, to some degree, as the genesis of *International Lighting Design*. (Was the genesis of the Tizio the Luxo lamp of thirty-three years earlier?) Spindly, wispy, crisp, black and wonderfully animated, Tizio is an articulated task light with a halogen lamp. The splendid Tizio spawned an entire industry intent on being ingenious, inventive and witty, where the emphasis was more on how you did it (configu-



Monolith Light by Brian Stewart

ration) rather than what you did (illumination). The Tizio ushered in an endless array of intriguing mechanisms and devices for articulating light that could support, move, position, diffuse and radiate light in a myriad of gestures. The exuberance of its design spirit comman-

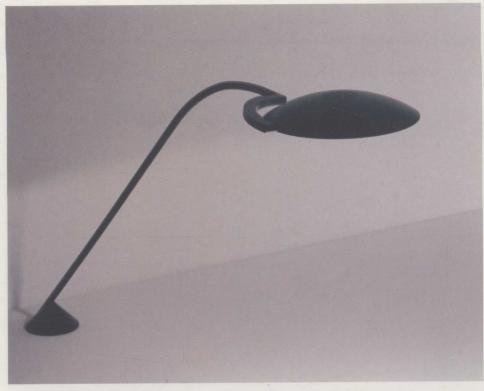


by V. Lorenzo Porcelli

Ruby Begonia by Alec Drummond

deered the minds of designers and encouraged them to explore, stretch and challenge their perceptions of what lighting design can be.

International Lighting Design recognizes the advent of one-off lighting, or art lighting that is constructed not for commercial production but to create visual statements. There was a time, not long ago, when industrial designers were reluctant to accept designs that were not in full production—somehow these were seen as "ringers," off on the sidelines somewhere, not following the same rules, not accredited players. It is precisely this group that has given lighting design, particularly in America, a jolt of new energy. The question "Is it art, is it craft or is it design?" now elicits the response "Who cares?" as long as the work is substantive. What we call art lighting reflects not so much the entry of art or artists into the lighting design world as it does the inclusion of the rest of the world into what is considered art. Perhaps the only thing that happens in art lighting that isn't apparent in production lighting is the aesthetics of the actual design process: the very act of creation is essential.



Eco by Mario Barbaglia and Marco Columbo

There are many works in this book worthy of detailed discussion but I will comment on only a few of them; readers will carry on their own dialogues with those designs that correspond to their personal visions as they emerge.

The Cascading Sconce by Thomas Hucker reveals a pure lyricism. Is the form the narrative, or is the light the narrative? Is the light cutting metaphorically through the panels or are the panels shaping the light? The eye is driven relentlessly upwards and downwards in rhythmic succession, trying to determine what the designer's *process of design* was.

Ad hoc design is not a new idea, but when Alec Drummond uses a common and disposable material in his wall lamp Ruby Begonia, he creates a surprisingly voluptuous and organic form. Like a movie with a surprise ending you are captivated initially by the lamp's form and then are astonished to discover what its original life was. (I won't tell you here...)

The passion for design in the Italian national temperament is evidenced in the line of designs by PAF. Most of these designs are by the formidable team of Mario Barbaglia and Marco Columbo. The Dove lamp (probably second only to the Tizio in popularity), the Logo, the Edipo and the Eco testify not only to a love of design but also to the enlightened support given by Italian industrialists, a support that is not matched elsewhere.

The Monolith Light by Brian Stewart is made up of crisp, machined elements, one dominant, one subordinate. The lamp's low voltage wires are set in a random wavy pattern

that suggests the flow of electric current. This design expresses a mastery of minimalist geometry, yet it isn't rigid or beyond metaphor.

Decorative thrown light is not a new concept in lighting design. This effect is often used by stage designers, for example, but nowhere does it take on the sense of orchestrated visual music more clearly than in Shigeru Uchida's lamp Dear Fausto. Even its tripoidal form suggests a music stand.

While there are many remarkable luminaires that are delicate in appearance, it is a pleasure to see something as sleek and muscular as the ArenaVision floodlight by Philips.

This design is like a great sports car — powerful, well-built and absolutely wonderful to look at. ArenaVision is a professional luminaire on a grand scale.

Analogy and metaphor still contribute the most voltage to creativity. The principal for balancing cantilevered weights used in Richard Sapper's Tizio lamp, for example, can



ArenaVision by Gerrit Arts

also be seen in drawbridge design, border guard barriers and construction cranes. The mind works by association. And so, to apply a Japanese adage to the Tizio: "To surpass the master pays the debt of what he gave you." I hope you find many lively examples of this process in *International Lighting Design*.

Focus on:

Dear Fausto

by Shegiru Uchida



