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JUNE 2012

Hot ideas for
saunas and
bathrooms

A week in the
life of designer
Oliver Steer

New furniture
and lighting
from Milan

Preview
of the BIID
conference



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Bright ideas

Mark Ludmon looks at some of the new designs and developments in lighting as well as control systems

While new technology is making the traditional light bulb obsolete, tradition has not been forgotten by today's designers. At his first solo exhibition at April's Salone Internazionale del Mobile in Milan, Lee Broom revealed the Crystal Bulb, inspired by the delicate craftsmanship of crystal cutting. It follows the success of his Decanterlight – crafted from crystal decanters – and transforms the everyday light bulb into an ornamental light fitting. Individually hand-blown, each Crystal Bulb is cut with the decanter pattern, working in collaboration with Cumbria Crystal – the only remaining producer of hand-made English full lead crystal in the UK. "I wanted to create a light bulb as a more accessible design product, and incorporating cut crystal seemed the most logical design as this has become a familiar style within my product ranges," Lee explains. Despite its link to traditional crafts, it uses an energy-efficient, dimmable halogen bulb with a 2,000-hour lifespan.

Milan was an opportunity for Italian design company Alessi to prove it is about more than kitchenware by presenting its first-ever lamp collection, by four leading designers. Andrea Morgante of Shiro Studio created Phylum from one single sheet of stainless steel while Mario Trimachi came up with La Stanza dell' Scirocco all'alba which is a stainless-steel laser-cut lamp available in two colours. The Campana Brothers designed Amanita, a mushroom-shaped, triple-switch rattan lamp, and Pier Paolo Pitacco created I Love Animals – stainless-steel animal-shaped lamps with colour-changing LEDs. Alessi has also worked with Foreverlamp to produce a new collection of eco-friendly lighting called AlessiLux.

Flos, which this year marks its 50th anniversary, was at Milan to launch two new concepts designed by Philippe Starck – the limited-edition 0-LED lamp with mirror and a new biodegradable version of his Miss Sissi lamp. Miss Sissi, first created in 1991, is now the world's first lamp made of bioplastic PHA which is made from the waste materials of sugar beet and cane production.

A range of chandeliers, wall and table lights has been introduced into the UK by Christopher Guy, whose work is noted for its sensual elegance. They include classically-inspired designs made from glass or handcrafted from wood as well as contemporary pieces such as the organic form of the Octopussy Chandelier with its cascading, entwined tentacles of blown glass.

Traditional glass-blowing techniques are used to create contemporary bespoke lighting by London-based Baroncelli, often working in collaboration with top designers such as David Collins, Fox Linton and Peter Marino. Made from Murano glass, Baroncelli's designs have brought sophisticated and impeccable style to both residential and commercial interiors such as the Corinthia Hotel in London and Coworth Park in Berkshire. Pieces include the Crono Chandelier – a suspended concentric circle of cristallo trihedrons with a polished black nickel frame.

Danish design company BoConcept has expanded its lighting collections with a new range of Ball pendants and wall lamps in petrol blue and red metal, with a contemporary ball-like design.

A striking luminous pendant, based on a

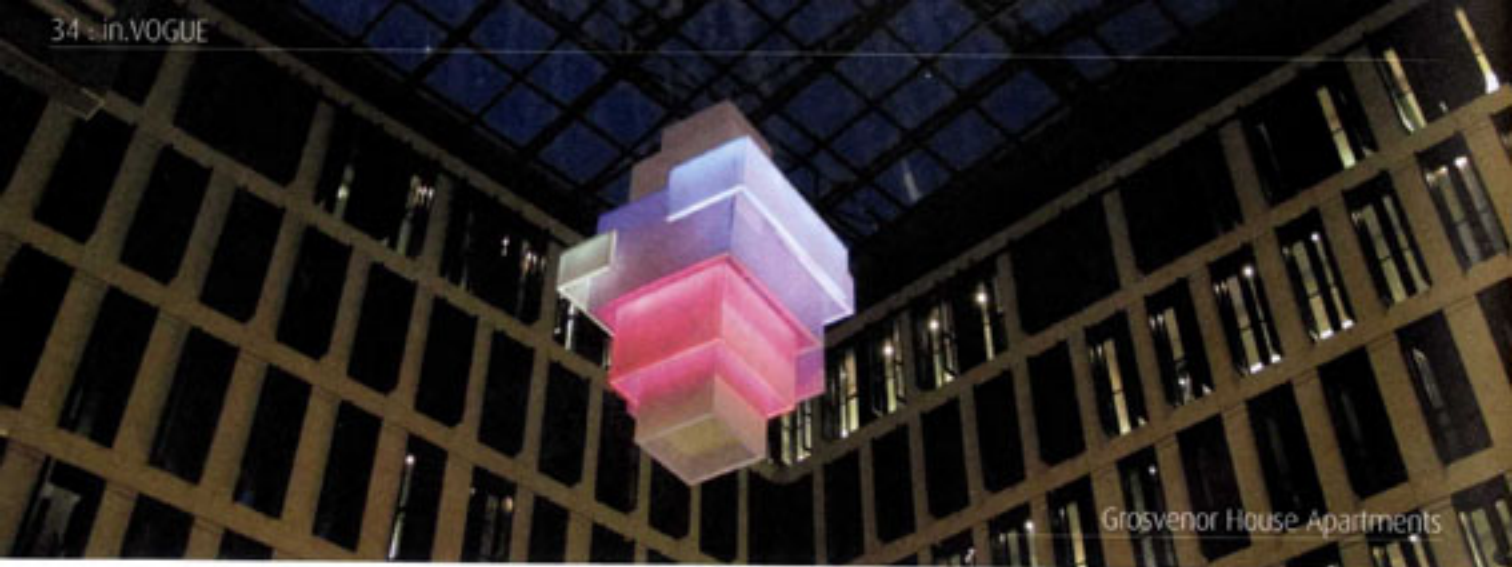


Crono Chandelier from Baroncelli

design developed by GIA Lighting, can be seen at the newly renovated Grosvenor House Apartments by Jumeirah Living in London's Park Lane. Contractor John Sisk & Sons approached trussing specialist Prolyte Group's special projects division Litestruktures to create the structure for suspending above diners in the first-floor atrium which has a seven-storey-high ceiling. The pendant comprises a series of aluminium frames, linked together by braces at the upper frame, assembled in a concentric orientation. The frames are covered in a wide ▼



Biodegradable Miss Sissi



Grosvenor House Apartments

▲ poly-stretch fabric with a sheen finish, supplied by fabric specialist J&C Joel. The light comes from Philips iColor Cove MX Powercore LED.

Developments in LED technology mean that interior lighting can be used to control and alter people's experience of a space to a level that was not possible with more traditional forms of lighting, says Ajay Vasdev, founding director of Asco Lights. "Advancements in RGB technology mean designs can now introduce colour change and mood lighting to create a multifunctional space for use at different times of the day and different purposes," he continues. With more colour and dimming options possible, LEDs can now achieve more aesthetically pleasing levels of warmth in "colour temperature" than before. "This, in the past, was not especially possible using LED lighting solutions, with the colour temperature erring on the side of being far too cold," Ajay adds. "Whilst cool lighting in certain situations may feel appropriate, a warm, inviting mood evoked by a lighting instalment is often preferable."



Concord LED LED 50

Havells-Sylvania has been at the forefront of developing products and solutions using LED, including its award-winning Concord lighting brand. Its latest launch is a super-slim, efficient LED downlight with a recessing depth of only 50mm – an efficient replacement for existing compact fluorescent downlights. The Concord LED LED 50 provides up to 70 lumens per circuit watt with a life of more than 50,000 hours at 70 per cent luminous flux. Kuldeep Vali, strategic business unit director for Concord says: "We think that, thanks to the unit's LED technology, this is going to appeal to the many organisations looking to reduce their carbon footprint and total life-cycle



Ball from BoConcept

costs of new-build or refurbishment lighting projects."

Lighting in the home can be controlled automatically through integrated technology from Crestron, a leading manufacturer of advanced control and automation systems. Lighting and heating are integrated with Crestron Green Light occupancy and photocell sensors around the home to measure when less lighting or heating is needed. By harnessing natural daylight from windows, electrical lighting can be dimmed, reducing energy usage while maintaining a consistent light level for a more efficient and comfortable work or living spaces. ▼