india mondo *arc*

CONDUITING TRENDS

Light is no more a mere facilitator of vision, and lighting is not the meager act of providing illumination. Today, light, lighting and the lighting product have become tools of enhanced perception, tools of heightened elucidation, but most importantly, tools of psychographic intuition.

mondo*arc india *shortlists eleven trendsetting studios that create lighting products as integrated elements of the creative environment. They are pushing the boundaries, colouring outside the lines and developing a design language that caters to the future, but is relevant to the present. Drawing inspiration from type and typology, nature and natural, scale and scalability; these designers offer experiences that are sometimes subtle or exaggerated, intimate or communal, detailed or ambient. These products are exemplars of a progressive vocabulary that redefines light as a personal experience through dynamic, technologic, kinetic or even metamorphic intents.*

Image: Cordoba, Kinetura

CONTEXTUAL SPOKES

Founded in Beirut, Lebanon in 2004 by **Dimitri Saddi**, .PSLAB is a design and build studio that creates context-specific design to facilitate the production of sensory experiences. With offices in Stuttgart, Helsinki, Bologna and Singapore, .PSLAB has carved a niche in the lighting product industry with custom-made technical and sculptural lighting objects developed in collaboration with renowned architects and designers. Working from conception to manufacturing, the team at .PSLAB pays close attention to details, anything from spaces, photography, videography, branding, and communication tools to packaging is designed in-house by them. They are not afraid of trials and errors, which is what has evolved their design philosophy over the years.

LION FISH
Driven by a creative dialog and an understanding of the site, the design process commences with a brainstorming session with the client and the architect, from which a lighting layout is developed,

followed by initial sketches of the product. The Jane, an exquisite restaurant in Antwerp, Belgium became the playground for .PSLAB to experiment with in 2011. The former chapel for a military hospital was refurbished by Piet Boon architects, who insisted on retaining the artisanal feel of the existing historic chapel, and propelling it forward with a contemporary underground atmosphere. It was the ideal canvas for .PSLAB to create an outstanding chandelier, Lion Fish.
Convinced that the space needed an enormous and spectacular piece, the design process started with sketches, which were then translated to product designers for further development. Multiple prototypes were created to test for weight, stability, details and structural integrity. Once approved, the piece was put into precise production.
Painstakingly hand crafted, the massive 12m x 9m chandelier over the dining area weighs 800 kilograms and is suspended from a single point in the ceiling. Dipping down to 2.75m above the ground, and then bowing back up to fill the vaulted space above, the

central structure is attached with tubular tentacles that each end with a glass bulb, filling the space with more than 150 bulbs. Using the latest technology for manufacturing the product, the design is grounded in a modest form. The sheer magnitude of the chandelier creates an awe-inspiring ambiance, yet its simplicity renders it humble enough to be relatable. "To be in the market, we must be quick to learn and adapt to technology. However, the more technology we have, the less human sense we get. I always believe that a good design should not ignore people. Therefore our challenge is how can we find balance? How can we physically interact with that technology? Technical innovation and new technologies are creating opportunities and new possibilities. The designer's job is to implement these new technologies into objects to offer a better or a new service to the user. Even if they are different fields, technology and design are much more powerful together."
www.pslab.net