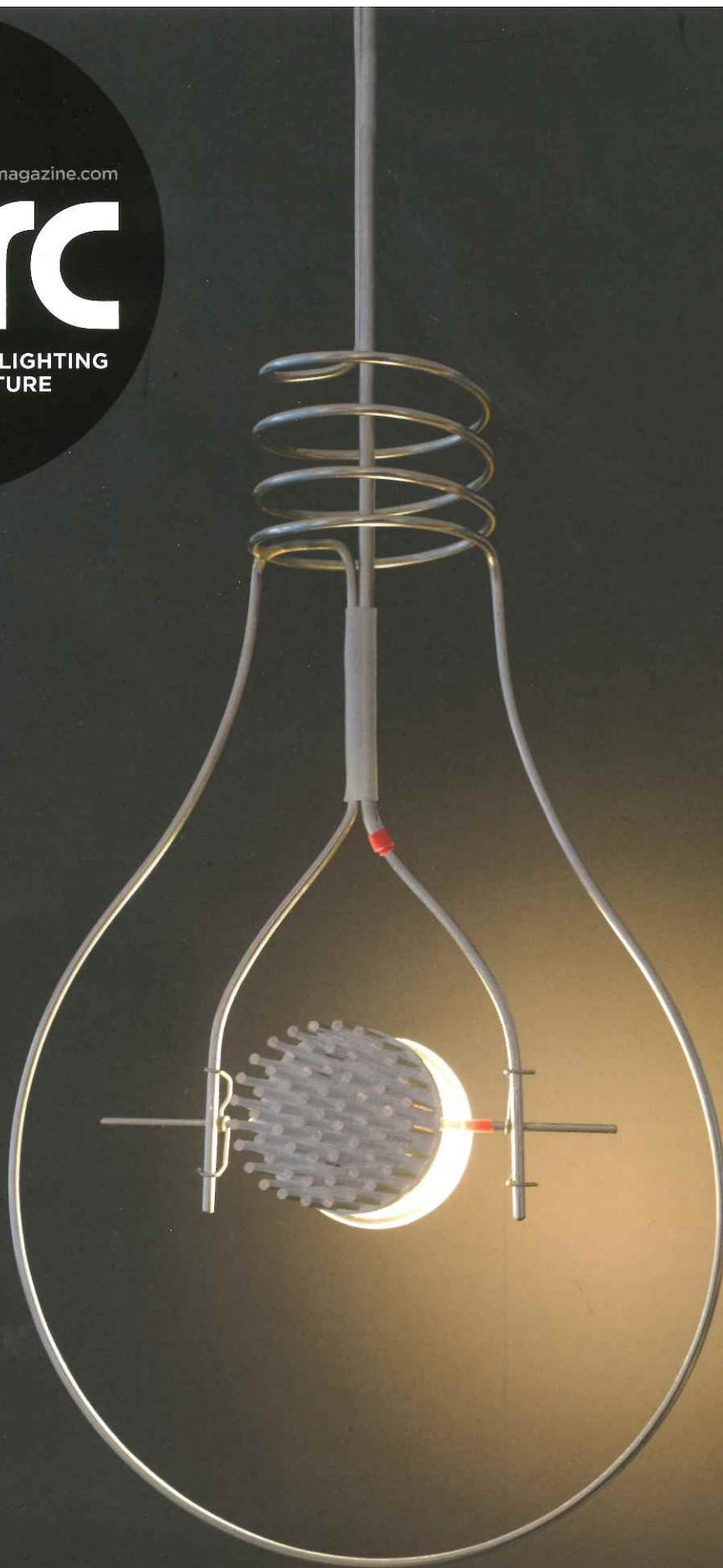


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#16 DECORATIVE LIGHTING
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light+building
special report

Butler Series Delta Light

A new perspective on light. West Flanders-based Delta Light entrusted designer Arik Levy with the creation of its new Butler collection, a surprising range of exterior and interior luminaires.

The culmination of two years' work, Butler takes the manufacturer into previously uncharted territory; different from the typical Delta Light design code, Levy came up with a reinterpretation of the lampshade archetype. Courtesy of its simple yet highly evocative shape, the Butler brings an interior touch into an outside space. It is simultaneously reassuring, elegant and feminine with its slender base and pleated shade, reminiscent of traditional silk or paper models.

Available in different floor mounted and wall mounted versions, in black or aluminium grey finish, the range is made from a polymer with a highly resistant powder paint coating. During this year's Light+Building, Levy took time out of his busy schedule to explain the process behind the product.



How does the Butler story begin?

I met Delta Light for the first time at Light+Building 2014. There was an instant click with Paul Ameloot and his sons Peter and Jan. For me it is crucial to work with people who are really passionate about what they do. We met a good few times after that and I presented them with a few proposals and was pleasantly surprised when they opted for Butler as it's radically different from anything else in their catalogue.

What was the idea behind the Butler range?

I was keen to take Delta Light into new territories, proposing a more emotional interpretation of light. My initial idea was to use a typically indoor object as a metaphor, one that helps you to feel at home in your external space. Lighting is a good vehicle for this, so I started from the idea of the archetypal lamp, with a base and a shade. Something simple, obvious even. It's a code immediately familiar to everyone and one that is becoming iconic.

What was your inspiration for the range?

These days, we move almost seamlessly from inside the home to the patio and beyond. The borders are becoming more blurred and it is human beings themselves who act as the bridge between these diverse spaces. I also remembered a pile of pleated paper that I'd seen in the streets of Paris, used to create the well-known plisse fashion

classics. The light and shade was playing upon it in an incredible manner and this made me think of the folded fabric of lamp shades, which is also used for clothing curtains and so on.

How did the idea become a reality?

We first tried creating the shade out of injected metal, but the result was quite rough and lacked the finesse I wanted without resizing the lamp, which I didn't want to do. The Delta Light team were incredible. For three months they worked to find the right solution: a polymer sufficiently resistant for exterior use yet still meeting the project specifications.

How would you describe this project?

As 'techno-poetic' - it combines a highly technical side with an emotional aspect. I'm very sensitive towards the objects surrounding me. They talk to me, just like people. The Butler does this too: it's a gentle, curved lamp, so it's feminine, of course. It can live alone or be installed in clusters, to play with its different heights. It is also equally suited to a hotel or private home, delivering a lighting experience. In my view Delta Light were incredibly daring to agree upon this path.

How would you describe working with light?

It relates to both the emotion and the material. I'm a surfer... Light gives the

reading of the waves, stars, the energy, everything. I normally head out to surf just before dawn and as I wait for the sun to come up everything changes, I might see a ray of sunshine, a reflection from the clouds or something and suddenly everything changes. Light has a place in history, it is a metaphor to life, when you have no light there is nothing - no bacteria, no metamorphosis... We are nothing. Light is so important, it has an emotional, spiritual side to it - this is what I like.

I don't know how to design a lamp, I'd go as far as to say I'm a really bad lamp designer but I know how to design an expression; design a lamp's culture; how to design the light itself, its quality and its feeling.

How will Butler stand the test of time?

It is the perfect example of something that has no geographical limitations because it has no style... It has an identity and it will work well in various locations. I like to challenge myself and design something that when I revisit it, I feel proud that it can do the job it's meant to. I see a lot of copies and followers in the industry and it's sad because you see how people are influenced by fashion. Everyone goes off and does the same sort of thing and it's horrible.

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