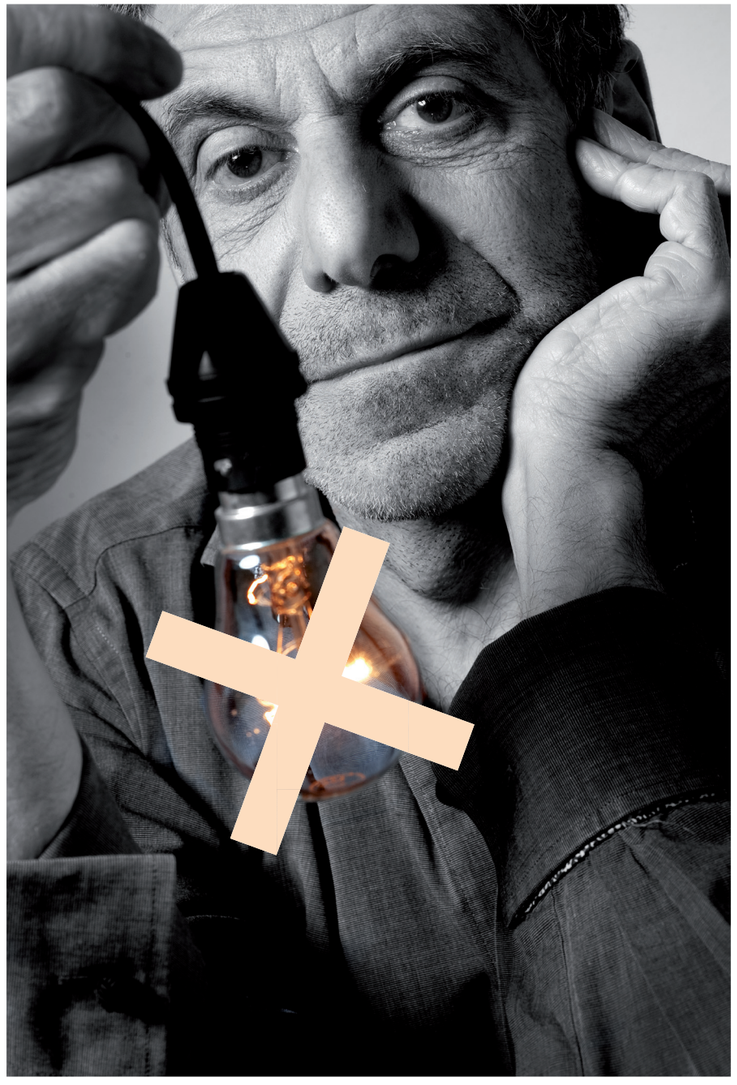

LIGHT YEARS AHEAD: HAUTE LUMIÈRE 2010

UPCYCLING OR SCULPTURAL? CALL IT WHAT YOU WILL, THE WINNER OF THE 2010 HAUTE LUMIÈRE AWARD ABSOLUTELY GOT THE VISI BRIEF TO CHALLENGE PRECONCEIVED IDEAS ABOUT LIGHTING.

MISSIONARY MAN

Paul Pamboukian is a light crusader. His mission is to alter perceptions about light sources in the South African design arena and to encourage designers to start thinking of lighting as more than a lamp.

Architects particularly, he says, don't always realise that light is fundamental to their work. After all, we all perceive space and form through light.

The annual Haute Lumière Light Award is Paul's effort to drive design people – interior designers, industrial designers and architects – to consciously grapple with the idea of using light as a design tool and not merely as a secondary element of a decorative fitting.

VISI has been proud to partner with Paul and his business, Paul Pamboukian and Associates Lighting Design, in the annual Haute Lumière Awards, in which we invite professional designers from all fields, as well as design students, to experiment with light.

The competition is also brought to you with the support of Regent Lighting, Regent Designs, the European Light and Design Centre (ELDC) and SA Fashion Week.

Each year, design professionals and students are asked to submit a design for a lighting execution according to the judges' brief. Finalists join Paul and his colleague Anthony Tischhauser for a workshop before preparing their prototypes.

The finalists are exhibited at SA Fashion Week in Johannesburg, where the winner is announced. He or she receives the grand prize of an all-expenses-paid week-long lighting workshop with the Professional Lighting Designers' Association in Alingsås, Sweden.

The prize is worth more than R50 000 and is an intense exposure to the world of possibilities that exist in lighting design. It is this level of international exposure that will take South African lighting design – not taught in any local design courses – to new heights.

• Paul Pamboukian 011 880 2831, www.ppald.com

CREATING CONVERTS

Hester Claassen was one of the 2009 Haute Lumière winners. Following her inspiring time at the Alingsås workshop, she has decided to study towards a master's in lighting design at an international academic institution.

Her experience at Alingsås far exceeded her expectations. As well as being an opportunity to learn from the northern European lighting experts, it gave her the chance to work with products she had never before seen or experienced. As part of the workshop in Sweden, Hester and her team mates had to illuminate the site of an old weaving factory. "There are steps leading to the water where people used to dye wool. The water would change colour because of the dyes, and that gave us our inspiration." The dramatic result is the magical illumination of the canal with multicoloured, multistranded lighting by the team – and an experience Hester will never forget.

Earlier this year, we asked entrants to explore light as a medium through fluorescent sources. Entrants were required to design an original light fitting of any description or function that utilised a standard T5 linear or circular fluorescent tube. Turn over to meet this year's winner and finalists…

Let there be light

"When I go to Europe I always show my suppliers some of the new designs coming out of South Africa. Even in Europe they are looking for new young talent and this is an opportunity for young designers to get their work noticed."

Marc Machtelinckx, owner European Lighting Design Company www.eldc.co.za

"Architects need to realise that, inside and outside, by day and night, lighting can have a massive effect on their designs. Imagine looking at Soccer City at night without the illumination from inside."

Randal Wahl, MD Regent Lighting www.regentlight.co.za

"We need to give young people the opportunity to show their talent. Haute Lumière is a platform for young people in different spheres of design to put themselves out there."

Lucilla Booyzen, founder SA Fashion Week www.safashionweek.co.za

"Design is about taking an idea, and materialising it into something that occupies space. In designing with light, it's light that occupies space. It is the design medium and the object."

Anthony Tischhauser, Paul Pamboukian and Associates Lighting Design www.ppald.com

"We need to move away from copying European designs. We are constantly inspired by what is happening overseas but this industry needs new local blood and that's why Haute Lumière is so important."

Robert Alexander, MD Regent Designs and consultant to Regent Lighting www.regentdesigns.co.za

FINALIST WALL-MOUNTED LIGHT BY STIAAN BESTER

"The concept of the wall-mounted light was influenced by rain flowing through a gutter towards the ground. The idea was to re-create this tunneling of water, using light. The shape of the light is based on a gutter downpipe that is typically used on the outside of a building, but by altering its function, it is brought into a home. Although it appears industrial in its strong lines and use of stainless steel, it has a softer, organic side represented by the way in which light is diffused through a clear Perspex panel in the front, which has been sandblasted to create the effect of rain drops running down a window."

winner

REPLAY BY MICHAEL FORST
"I wanted to make the fluorescent tube more of a visual design element and thought that by stacking translucent plastic plates together, it would create a continuous play of light and at the same time act as both a diffuser and a structural element. CDs are great for this, because of how they affect the light, and it's also a chance to up-cycle something that is typically discarded."

FINALIST GEO-SINN LIGHT BY GRANT SOLOMONS
"I started out on this light quest with a rather indifferent approach to the given light source, based on my then very limited understanding of the potential of the fluorescent as a brilliant illuminating tool in its own 'light'. The linear tube anchors the shape of the luminaire and adds colour. Around this elongated light source, I used a single material – translucent or opal malleable polypropylene – to articulate the form, which is based on nature's greatest building block, the hexagon. When interlocked through a honeycomb-like building method, a poly-magical structure results."

FINALIST SEARCHLIGHT BY FRANCOIS VAN DER WALT "The tube has a dual function, both as the structure of the lamp and as an actual light source. The fluorescent tube is encased within an opaque sleeve giving the lamp an ethereal feel. Within the lampshade, the naked tube allows for the maximum light intensity. The tube penetrates the shading at an angle, adding a dynamic light quality to the installation. Careful attention was given to the proportions and detailing of every component. From the steel base to the use of the light filters, each element forms part of a whole. The design process becomes an act of discovery."

FINALIST DAY LIGHT BY JONATHAN FUNDUDIS "Should a luminaire only be admired for its spectacular qualities when functioning as a light source, or be admired as a product which enhances its environment despite its purposeful nature? The Day Light table lamp is a hybrid combining the practical form of a container or flowerpot, fused with the familiar silhouette of a lamp shade, together creating a contemporary, unique, multipurpose interior product which is visually interesting during the day as well as when lit at night."

2011 **HAUTE LUMIÈRE**

LOOK OUT FOR THE 2011 HAUTE LUMIÈRE AWARD BRIEF IN THE FEBRUARY 2011 ISSUE OF VISI. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT ANTHONY TISCHHAUSER ON 011 880 2831 OR ANTHONY@LIGHTINGDESIGN.CO.ZA