



## meet our lighting heroes

IS IT A LAMP OR IS IT A TABLE? IS IT UPRIGHT OR IS IT UNSTABLE? THIS WAS THE CHALLENGING BRIEF TO DESIGN STUDENTS AND PROFESSIONALS WHO ENTERED THE ANNUAL HAUTE LUMIÈRE LIGHT AWARD COMPETITION. THE RESULT WAS FIVE EXCELLENT EXAMPLES OF SOUTH AFRICAN DESIGN TALENT.

### Comp Light by Dokter and Misses

**THE JUDGES WERE SO IMPRESSED WITH THIS DESIGN BY THE OWNERS OF DOKTER AND MISSES, ADRIAAN HUGO AND KATY TAPLIN, THAT MOST HAVE ORDERED ONE.**

After reading the brief the pair's initial thought was: "Why would we want to plug in a furniture piece?" This was the point of departure for a multipurpose furniture-light object that would function on many levels rather than as only a static piece. Design ideas were integrated into a coherent easy-to-manufacture consumer-friendly creation with multiple uses," Katy explains. "We made a prototype, then implemented some changes before presenting a final prototype."

The trestle table design with integrated drawer and light can also be used separately as a floor lamp and coat rack.

Although this experienced design team didn't have much difficulty translating their concept into a prototype, it was expensive and there were many areas where the engineering of the moving parts had to be integrated aesthetically. However they agree that the finished product makes it all worthwhile.

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### Control One by August de Wet

**THIS JOBURG-BASED INDUSTRIAL DESIGNER HAS ALREADY ATTENDED THE PROFESSIONAL LIGHTING DESIGNERS ASSOCIATION (PLDA) WORKSHOP IN SWEDEN AS PART OF HIS PRIZE.**

The challenge of combining a functional object such as a table with something as ethereal as light inspired August to think: "I didn't want to make a table that only glowed. I felt it should also be dynamic and responsive to the surrounding space, so decided on apertures that could open and close to control the light emitted."

His design process began with sketches, maquettes and experimentation with light. Although the original design was not bound to a specific material, August had to make a final choice and opted for wood to give his light a handcrafted quality.

Translating the paper concept into a prototype was a little tricky and a lot of work. "Chaos takes over throughout the prototyping process but afterwards it's easily forgotten," says August.

He found making the prototype the most satisfying part of the process. "I enjoy learning about new materials and processes," he says. "It was also exciting to see the light finally do what I had only imagined it would."

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INVESTIGATIVE  
WINNER



COMMERCIAL  
WINNER



### Shadow Light by Hester Claasen

**CURRENTLY COMPLETING HER FINAL YEAR IN INDUSTRIAL DESIGN AT THE CAPE PENINSULA UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, HESTER WILL ATTEND THE PLDA WORKSHOP IN 2010 AS PART OF HER PRIZE.**

Hester wanted a light with an element of surprise. "The idea came from my fascination with shadows, which appear to cross the boundaries between the perceived two-dimensional and three-dimensional worlds. Shadows play with depth, creating optical illusions and fooling the observer about their original form."

Hester's photograph of a toothpick chair inspired her first model, which took on the stylistic characteristics of shadows and featured a shape completely open to 3D interpretation.

After she completed the one-day workshop at Paul Pamboukian Lighting Design,

the final prototype began to take shape. "The way Shadow Light is painted interprets the source of the imaginary light casting the shadows. The UV LEDs are used to enhance the white on the generic chair, representing sunlight and raising it from the ground. The angles of the shadow interpret movement. Diffusion creates different levels of sharpness and the gradients of the shadow lines enhance the illusion."

Hester was elated when she successfully pulled off the design in the nick of time and found that the shadow effect worked extremely well.

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IMAGINATIVE  
WINNER

### Oli Light by Sulet Jansen

**THIS SENIOR DESIGN DIRECTOR AT SWITCH BRANDING AND DESIGN IN JOHANNESBURG HAS WON A VISIT TO THE PHILIPS WORKS IN EINDHOVEN.**

"The concept of "shower with light" was born when I became mesmerised by the 'beams' of water while taking a shower one day," recalls Sulet. "In the same way that water travels through the showerhead to create an experience, I wanted to use light to create a specific ambience. I decided to use an elephant for its heart-warming appeal and habit of using its trunk to shower itself."

Sulet also believes in designing with a smile in mind and admires designers who successfully merge fun and function in everyday objects. "I began with rough illustrations, which led to the birth of Oli. I decided he would be aesthetically playful with a functional slant."

Oli's mouth became a mini bookshelf and his back a table surface. A touch of humour was added: the light is activated by a soft poke in either eye to create a dazzling patterned effect.

Basic elevations were used to generate 3D renderings. As a graphic designer who works mostly in 2D, Sulet approached industrial designer Roger Hardie to assist with the prototyping using vacuum moulding. Despite the tight deadline and costly process, Sulet was delighted to experience the positive reactions of children and adults alike when encountering her creation.

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PORTRAIT: GREG COX





PORTRAIT: GREG COX

### Bloom Box by Micha Koren

**THIS CAPETONIAN IS AN ARCHITECT WHO RUNS KORIGIN, A BUSINESS SPECIALISING IN 3D VISUALS AND ARCHITECTURAL RENDERINGS. HIS LIGHT DESIGN SHOULD BE SNAPPED UP BY NIGHTCLUBS.**

Micha revelled in the opportunity to design a product with such an unusual brief. "I'm inspired by nature so combined the concept of a plant together with high-tech materials and electronics."

His concept was further refined on paper and then animated in 3D to see how the parts would work in every configuration. The next step was to find materials and parts that could accomplish what he had designed. "By some miracle I found exactly the right components: A bendable steel exhaust pipe from an 18-wheeler truck; custom laser-cut steel brackets; light-transmitting Perspex; an interactive touch sensor and colour-changing LEDs. I was good to go."

The natural motions of a plant, such as blooming and swaying, were expressed through moving panels and a flexible stem. The glowing effect of sunlight shining through plant leaves was recreated by colour-changing LED lights shining through engraved Perspex panels.

"Illuminating the table for the first time and seeing the effect was unforgettable," Micha remembers.

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