

shine

Da Vinci chandelier by Schonbek

Like most chandeliers, the Da Vinci should occasionally be taken down from its perch and painstakingly scrubbed to a good clean polish. Unlike most, this one's machine-washable, which means after months of accumulating dust and grime, it can be split into sections, mixed up with Cascade, and sent through the delicate cycle of your dishwasher.

The Da Vinci is the brainchild of Schonbek, a Plattsburgh, New York-based lighting company. According to the company's creative director, Eileen Beer, the light's domestic friendliness isn't even its greatest feat: "We've been on a quest to come up with a perfectly round chandelier for years," Beer says.

A round suspension light is nothing new—think paper lanterns, or Moooi's epoxy-and-fiberglass ball of string—but the challenge for Schonbek, which wanted a spherical addition to its Geometrix line, was how to render the piece entirely in crystal. The company is mum on the particulars of the fabrication process—a utility patent is in place to protect from copycatting and there's a pending design patent as well—but it involves

thousands of crystal octagons aligned in a mosaic pattern and hand-secured with metal prongs to the stainless-steel frame like jewelry. The crystals are designed to withstand shooting water and suds, and each fixture goes through a test-run before shipping. But if pieces are chipped down the line, the light's modular construction makes the tiny gems easy to replace.

While some might see disco-ball allusions in the Da Vinci's sparkly facets, Beer prefers a less Studio 54 comparison: "If you put it on a dimmer, the intensity of the halogen light is really warm and subdued. It looks like a harvest moon." The company is currently enlarging the Da Vinci to a diameter of six to eight feet for applications such as hotels and casinos, but there are concerns about how to clean those behemoth chandeliers. "They're obviously not going to go through a dishwasher," Beer says. "Maybe we should provide a car wash." Available in diameters of 10, 12, 18, and 24 inches; Swarovski Strass (\$2,625-\$15,385) or Spectra (\$1,750-\$8,795) crystal. www.schonbek.com — JILL SINGER





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In designing his **LITTLE JOSEPH** candleholder, a porcelain doll head whose innocent gaze follows you everywhere, Czech wunderkind Maxim Velcovsky of Qubus studio wanted to evoke feelings of warmth, childhood, and humanity. Whatever. It's creepy-cool, and its wax-blob hair grows bigger after every use, not unlike its creator's signature afro. Contact seller for price. www.qubus.cz



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It's so Japanese in its simplicity, you'd never guess the **D.I.Y.M.** (Do It Yourself Modern) lampshade was a Droog offering. Designed by the American-born, Amsterdam-based firm Ransmeier & Floyd, the spare white polypropylene sphere can dress up a bare bulb with no fussy hardware required; lift and drop to lock it in place, just like you would a wall hook; \$44. www.ransmeierfloyd.com



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Looking a bit like a melon sliced in half and hung in mid-air, Brooklyn-based Hivemindesign's **GOSSAMER PENDANT** is a study in material contradictions. Consisting of a hard, smooth steel dome stretched at its opening with a sophisticated pattern of red silk thread, it's both workmanlike and delicate; \$1,200. www.hivemindesign.com

GABRIEL URBANEK (LITTLE JOSEPH)

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Each pendant of the **SUPERNOVA CHANDELIER** by BarberOsgerby, launched as part of Swarovski's 2004 Crystal Palace collection and now in production, is made from hand-blown Murano glass and filled with 750 crystals. The uplight is softened by the white glass, while the downlight gets refracted and dappled by the crystals that sheath the light's interior; \$3,397 per Nova. www.barberosgerby.com



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D.L. & Company's ornate porcelain **CLAW CANDLE HOLDER** is perfect for creeping down dark hallways in your stocking feet, or just accessorizing your Victorian-themed living room. It takes the form of a delicate flourish of oak leaves perched atop a knotty pheasant foot, with a ring for hooking your finger when you're moved to party like it's 1899; \$150. www.dlcompany.com



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Thai lighting designer Suppapong Sonsang's **STEM CELL EGGS** have nothing to do with cloning debates; they're merely inspired by undifferentiated cells' immense potential for growth. The lamps are asymmetrical rococo orbs with lacy, shell-like curves, and for the truly industrious, there's Stem Cell DIY, a kit that includes pieces of the plastic pattern in assorted sizes, with the potential for an infinite number of forms. Contact manufacturer for price. www.tazana.com





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HANABI, designed by the Tokyo-based firm Nendo, is a metal alloy lamp that responds to the heat of an incandescent bulb by opening its “petals” when illuminated and reverting to its original shape when turned off. The lamp’s name means “fireworks,” which is derived from the Japanese words for “fire” and “flower.” Both “fade away so quickly and easily,” Nendo notes. Contact designer for price.
www.nendo.jp



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Bruno Munari designed the Falkland pendant lamp for Italy’s Danese Milano in 1964, and in addition to releasing two new versions of that masterpiece this year, the firm also set out to honor the designer with Carlotta de Bevilacqua’s HOMAGE TO BRUNO MUNARI lamp. A mod conglomeration of aluminum disks with holes to let light through, the lamp is based on one of Munari’s own sculptures. Available in table lamp or pendant varieties; \$949–\$1,086. www.danese milano.com



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Spanish designer Martí Guixé is best known for his irreverent food-themed designs; his new EGO mirror, produced by B-sign, turns preeners into their own eye candy. Each is printed with one of five sycophantic phrases: Star, Free, Young, Genius, and Sexy. Collect them all—it’s cheaper than seeing a shrink. Contact seller for price.
www.b-sign.es

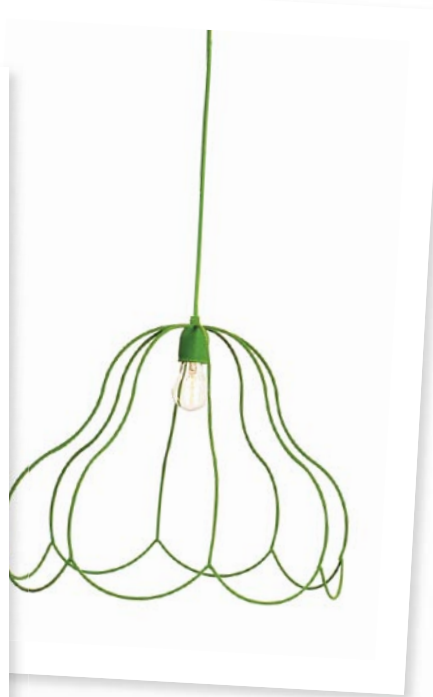
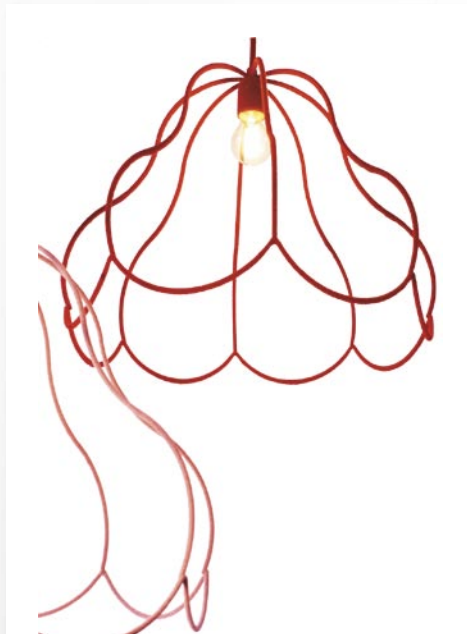


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The ARTEMIS ceiling fan wants to be more sculpture than fixture: Its blades wrap around a concealed motor and taper at their tips like birds’ wings, making them spin faster and more silently than the average ceiling fan. With the liquid nickel finish shown here, \$670.
www.g2art.com



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The Milanese design duo Alberto Meda and Paolo Rizzatto combined elegant aesthetics with remarkable energy efficiency in their MIX for Luceplan, an LED-based reading lamp that consumes just five watts and lasts up to 50,000 hours per bulb. When turned off, the adjustable aluminum stem remains illuminated with blue light, so it’s easy to locate when things go bump in the night; \$590. www.luceplan.com

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If the emperor has no clothes, it figures that Swedish designer Malin Palm’s EMPERORS LAMP would have no shade. Instead, an undulating steel skeleton wrapped in velvet-like flock fibers creates a cage around the bulb. Available in six colors; \$262.
www.launchdesignpartner.com



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Herman Miller ventures into lighting with LEAF, a versatile, petal-thin lamp designed by Yves Béhar. Twenty LEDs are embedded in an arm that swings 180 degrees, enabling the fixture to operate as a floor lamp when the arm is fully open, task light when it’s perpendicular to a desktop, or glowing freestanding sculpture when closed. Touch controls vary the light’s intensity, but thanks to proprietary technology, Leaf is always cool to the hand; \$555.
www.hermanmiller.com



MASAYUKI HAYASHI (HANABI); LEIF HÖGBERG (EMPERORS LAMP); MIRO ZAGNOLI (HBM)

LEO TORRI (MIX)