

# ASIA UNDER THE SPOT- LIGHT

The Asian design scene once again confirms the contrasting style between Europe and Asia, tradition and modernity. Between Hong Kong, Japan and 100% Design Shanghai, our eyes are drawn to “illuminating” creations by cosmopolitan designers whose aesthetic codes succeed in relating to man in his everyday environment.

Report by **Florence Coirier Giraudon**

Two distinct trends are emerging in the Asian lighting sector. The globe-trotting designers favour designs that are aesthetic, ecological and functional. Conversely, the local designers try to revive their own cultural heritage with experimental projects that aim to evolve

the appearance and the primary function of the object.

Two positive directions that commits them to using lightweight, recyclable materials such as bamboo, paper, wax or glass for the sake of energy conservation. Nethertheless, it's important to point out that lighting

## Inspired by the past

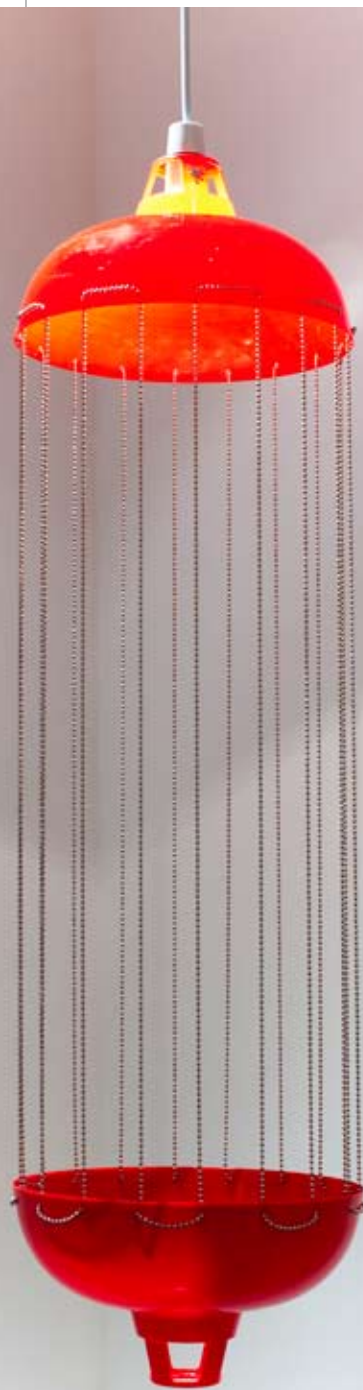
Collective Johan & Jacob were the initiators of an exceptional collaboration in Hong Kong, between 13 local and foreign designers for a charity project “Butchers Deluxe” with all proceeds going to the association roomtoread. The famous lamp made out of red plastic, social symbol of the street markets of Hong Kong, which is one of the rare products still produced locally, becomes the focus of all manner of creative interpretations. TL Magazine and buymedesign.com join forces for this project by proposing, in exclusivity, from January to April 2011, an auction to sell the “Raise” lamp, created by the famous Dutch designer Richard Hutten.

### RAISE Richard Hutten

Lampshades and metallic ropes  
Diameter 280 mm, height 150 mm  
One-off piece. The auction bidding starts at 15 000 \$HK (1 462 €), exclusive of delivery costs outside of Hong Kong. You can send your offers now to [jacob@johanandjacob.com](mailto:jacob@johanandjacob.com) ou [florence@buymedesign.com](mailto:florence@buymedesign.com)  
For further information please visit [www.butchersdeluxe.com](http://www.butchersdeluxe.com)



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Faba J. - Fabric Jewellery

## Faba J

"Passion for Fabric" is a jewelry line created by designer Chailie Ho. "We touch and wear a huge variety of textile everyday, however we often overlook the beauty in it. The exquisite texture, the intricate weave and the complex processes

of producing a roll of fabric are all fascinating", says Chailie Ho. Thus, Faba J. would like to celebrate the beauty of textile and let everyone to have a hands-on experience with various touch feeling, to understand and to learn the story behind it. [www.chailieho.com](http://www.chailieho.com)

## Moto

### Hiyoshiya

Japanese umbrellas (Kyo-wagasa) have been used since the Heian period (794-1185). Hiyoshiya, based in Kyoto, have been developing this ancestral savoir-faire over five generations. Today, they are the last to produce them using time-honoured traditions. Hiyoshiya was able to intelligently adapt the same techniques to their collection of Moto lampshades whose aerial structure opens and closes, enabling each light to offer multiple variations. [www.wagasa.com](http://www.wagasa.com)



## Collection Walter & Phyllis Shorenstein

In Hong Kong, we witnessed the moment when the Walter and Phyllis Shorenstein Collection went under the hammer at an auction organised by Christie's Asia. It was a unique collection of Chinese glass estimated at US\$31million dating from the Ming and Qing dynasties. This heritage from the past represents an inestimable fortune which dazzled us with its highly modern forms and techniques. A note to creators: everything starts from an idea, an inspiration, an emotion, knowledge and expertise.



## Cultural crossroads

Initiated at DETOUR Hong Kong, the satellite event twinned with BoDW (Business of Design Week), this year's DeX (Designers exchange) programme involves a collaboration between Japanese and Hong Kong designers based around two themes: "Aesthetics. Ethics: designing with innocence" and "Pure water design: vision for the future". The works are exhibited at Victoria, a former prison in Hong Kong and invite the public to interact freely with the different installations. [www.detour.hk](http://www.detour.hk)

## Match

Founded in Shanghai, Neri&Hu reinterprets the aesthetic codes of a modern China. The latest design from the House collection, Match lamp, was inspired by a traditional style found in the Chinese countryside. [www.neriandhu.com](http://www.neriandhu.com)



## Boutique gallery Bothos

On the Hollywood Road, famous for its antique shops in down-town Hong Kong we discover the treasures of the boutique-gallery. The head designer, Luigino Bottos, takes us on a voyage along the Silk Road where we come across subtle mixes of antique and vintage pieces. The creator, originally from Italy, takes particular care over the presentation of his wares inside his

flagship boutique. To beautify the ten metre-high space under the ceiling, he chose a superb Venetian chandelier by Venini - the original 1950s Art Deco piece can be found in one of the old casino's of Venice. In keeping with local tradition, the glass is blown and each piece assembled by hand. [www.bothos.com](http://www.bothos.com)

### Venetian chandelier by Venini

Prix: HKD 105,000 (10.238 €)  
Dimensions: 140 cm wide x 50 cm high.  
Made in Italy.



## Form and fonction

On the lookout for an aesthetic, ecological design that could adapt to our next e-commerce sales platform [buymedesign.com](http://buymedesign.com), we discovered three designers, hailing respectively from China, Australia and Japan at the recent 100% Design Shanghai Trade Fair.



### CONSTELLATION Kent Gratton

A geometric light form created in bamboo, designed by Kent Gratton and shown at 100% Design London in 2010. [www.wambamboo.com.au](http://www.wambamboo.com.au)

### WU Junjie Zhang

A lamp created by Junjie Zhang and shown at the Milan Salone Satellite and Eindhoven Design Week in 2010. Assembled manually in the ateliers of collaborative Innovo, near Shanghai, its original form has been achieved thanks to bamboo branches which support the rice paper. [www.innovo-design.com](http://www.innovo-design.com)

### BLOOM Junjie Zhang

A lamp created by Junjie Zhang and shown at last year's Milan Salone Satellite. It's composed of a forest of transparent leaves whose veins glow with a fragmented light.

