

Giopato & Coombes
editions



“**Flauti lamps are the beginning of a story. A story that starts in Murano with two Designers, and an Artisan.**”

“On the way to Murano by boat, docking at the Fondamenta dei Vetrai and beginning to wander from one alleyway to another, in search of the right “soffio”, or breath that would work for the project that I had in my bag. The colours of the houses, the colours of the sky on the first day of sunshine after so much rain, the warmth of the people, at first shy, and then very generous; it reminds me of growing up, the memories of ancient and modern glass that have accompanied me since childhood. Then finding the right people, and the exchange of ideas between designer and master glass blower.” Cristiana Giopato

Flauti collection

Nº 1

This edition of lamps is made from Murano blown glass and turned brass, both high quality materials. Each module crystallizes a different breath and is unique, only vaguely similar to next reproduction. Spontaneity and improvisation are part of the project, and are promoted as proof of the handmade. The combination of matching modules, which use different traditional Murano glass blowing techniques and processes. The traditional Muranese colours evoke the sunset of the Venetian Lagoon. The **Flauti** lampshade is supported and illuminated by the custom designed **SoftSpot** bulb which, in contrast to the romantic soul, is a precise brass cylinder packed with the latest in LED technology. The combination of tradition and technology found in the project **Flauti** searches for a new equilibrium which again represents Venice, a cornerstone of romance set in a world of technological advancement.

Lost in time

Bringing back the Venetian heritage.



Flauti
LE-AMETHIST-1



Flowers in a Vase (detail), 1792,
Paulus Theodorus van Brussel

Heritage

Silica, metal powders, and fire are the ingredients of the malleable paste called glass.



Flauti

LE-LILAC-1 and LE-CRYSTAL-3





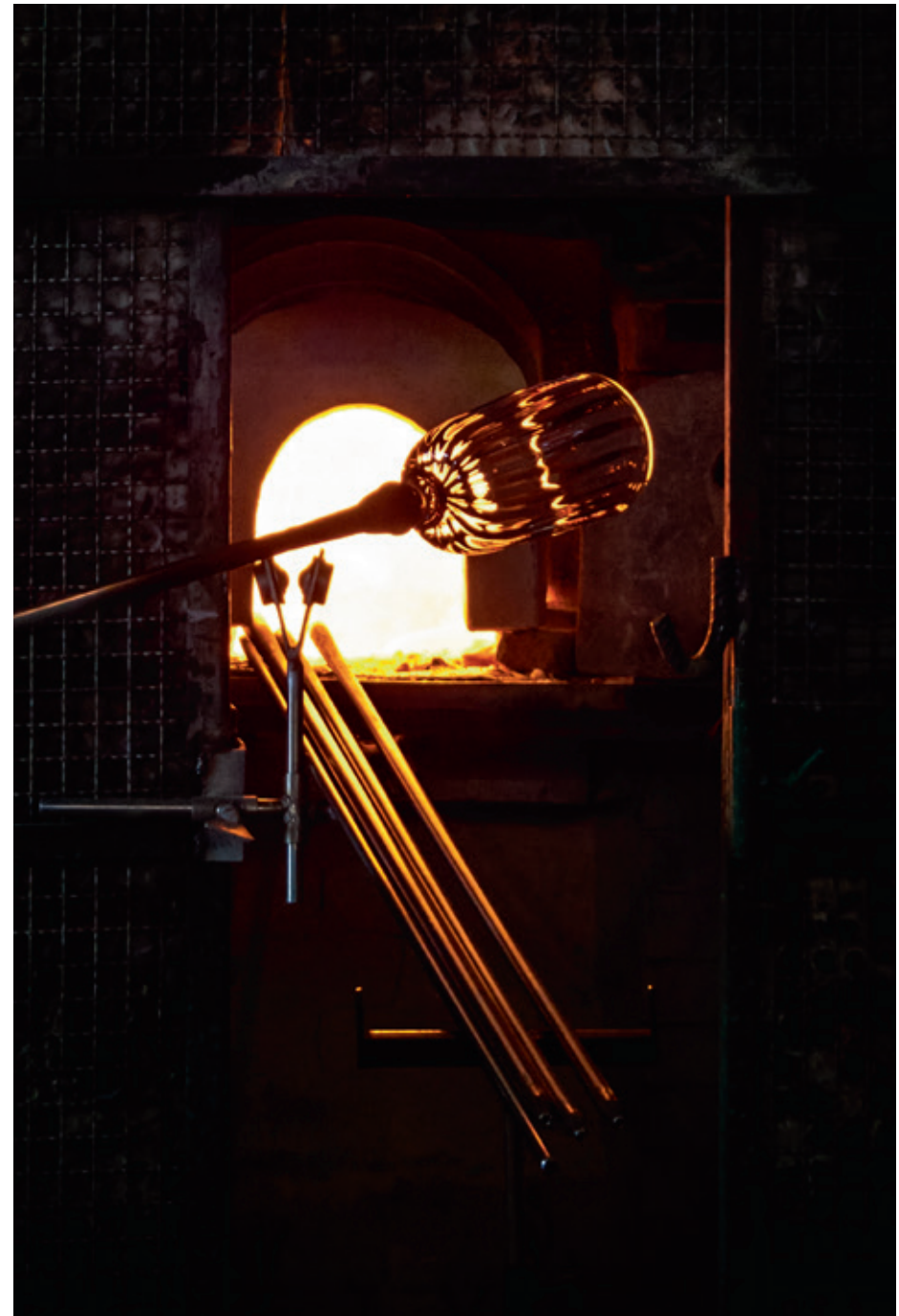


The Art of Making

The magic of 500 year old artisan techniques combined with the latest LED technologies.



Master glass-blower and Christopher working on the first prototypes.



Passion

Architect **Cristiana Giopato** talks about the bizarre business of being entrepreneurs of themselves.

Venice, IT

Interview by Edoardo Bianchi
Photo by Alessandro Giusto



Edoardo: Why did you choose lamps as the first product typology for Giopato & Coombes Editions? Is this collection about aesthetics or functionality?

Cristiana: The lamp, for a designer, is a complicated object due to the interaction between the volume of the object and the complete emptiness of light, there is also the variability of refracted and emitted light on or through the object. Our studio is attracted to challenges, that we try and simplify. A lamp must absolutely resolve the function of emitting light, so to answer your question; function is a necessary condition, whereas aesthetics is the only value that can open people's hearts.

Edoardo: You have always worked with producers. Why have you decided to produce your own designs?

Cristiana: It's true that we normally collaborate with manufacturing companies, and therefore from a brief, responding to their particular needs, such as target market, materials and product types. With this collection, for once, we have left out the needs of a company, and we've let ourselves be led by our hearts and what we are passionate about. I have always been fascinated by Murano, ever since I was small it has surrounded me in the houses I've lived in. These objects in glass, with various forms and functions, have always been a silent presence full of beauty, guarded over time and passed on from generation to generation. It's taken quite a few years for me to have the courage to work with hand blown glass, due the amount of respect I have for the art of Murano.

And then it was like free flight, I opened my arms and jumped! The design began on paper, but we had to confront the Glass Masters, to find the right interpretation of the project as he brought it to life with his deep breaths! Every piece has small differences because everything is made by hand. The small imperfections that can be seen are proof of this artisan process and its authenticity, and that it hasn't been made using mechanical processes.

The part that fascinates me the most is the "lost in time" aspect of these lamps. They seem to float in time, and you can't easily apply a period to them. On one hand they are rich with tradition and on the other the LED lighting component is completely bespoke with the latest technologies. The fact of being at the same time designer and producer has allowed us to follow the entire process, and to not accept shortcuts or easier options, that companies often have to take for commercial reasons. This total product control guarantees an absolute level of high quality. Every single piece has been custom designed by us and manufactured by Italian artisans, from Murano in the case of glass and around the Venice region for all the other components.

Edoardo: The Flauti are a series of modules that can be assembled to create personalised lamps. How far can design push personalisation in industrial objects?

Cristiana: I like the fact that products can motivate people to be creative, that they can find new uses or a new arrangement that I hadn't thought of. Personalisation at an extreme level is an improper use of an object, which can give it another positive sense. How many times has a Bic pen been used to block hair into a chignon?

For the **Flauti** lamps we've chosen combinations and colour ways, but the intention is to collaborate with Interior Architects with greater personalisation and offer custom arrangements that work with their interior. Our combined backgrounds as Designer and Architect enable us to design products with customisable elements with the interior architect in mind. For example the **Bolle** lamps when combined can create many different shapes and volumes, as if clouds.

Edoardo: How did you become an architect and what advice would you give to someone who wants to undertake your profession?

Cristiana: For me it was a continual mix of studying and work experience. It began with a 5 year degree in Industrial Design at the Politecnico di Milano, divided by a year in London at Brunel University. After that I began working for Studio Urquiola, with direct contact with Patricia, I worked on both design and architecture projects. 3 years later when I opened my own studio I also began a degree in architecture, which had become a thorn in my side... As for advice, the working world is very fierce, and so you need to create the strongest foundations as possible and then have the courage to jump. At the beginning you need to search for challenges and hope to emerge, participate in competitions, organise group exhibitions to confront yourselves with peers. Don't wait for others to notice you, but search to create your own opportunities. And above all follow your passions and what your intuition tells you.

Edoardo: What part of being a designer do you like the most?

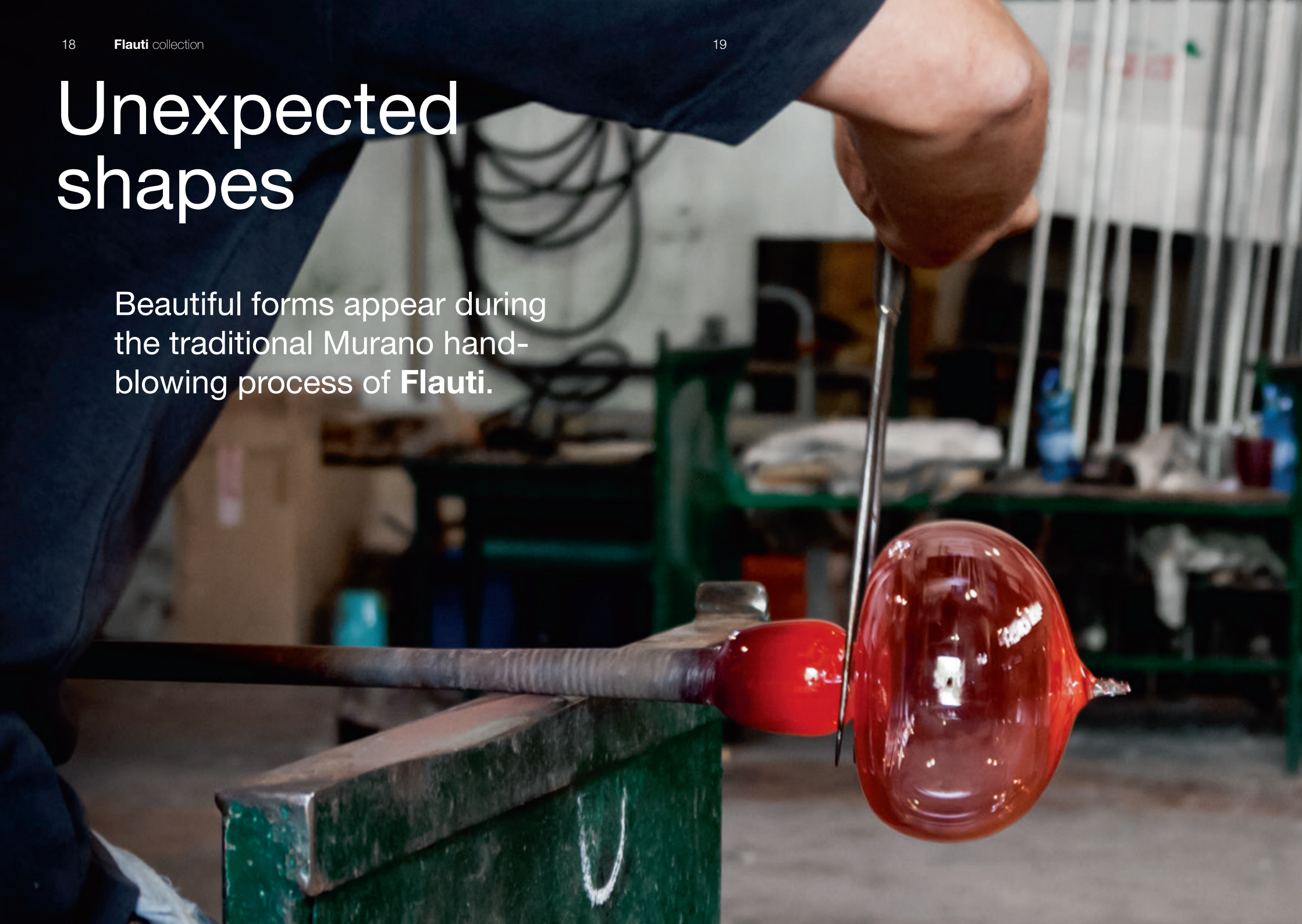
Cristiana: I like very much the combination of approaches between instinctive, intuitive and irrational creation and the required pragmatism that is necessary for a project to finish as an industrial product. It is a continual precarious equilibrium.

Edoardo: What part of being an entrepreneur do you like the most?

Cristiana: Even here it's the same two things, both pragmatism and intuition applied in different occasions. Pragmatism because you have to be objective about the product and its place in the market, and to keep control over the accounts, but you also need to follow your intuition to understand which project is the best to take into production. As they are our projects we need to be very critical with ourselves.

Unexpected shapes

Beautiful forms appear during the traditional Murano hand-blowing process of **Flauti**.



LE-ORANGE-1

Murano glass:
Orange dome with balloton, lilac
disc, amber olive, amethyst batton.
Dimensions: 43cm x ø16cm

**LE-ORANGE-2**

Murano glass:
Orange dome with balloton, green
pyramid with bollicine, grey disc.
Dimensions: 23cm x ø16cm



LE-BLUE-1

Murano glass:
Blue dome, green disc, grey bead,
yellow olive with balloton, grey batton
with rigadin storto.
Dimensions: 47cm x ø16cm

**LE-BLUE-2**

Murano glass:
Blue bell with cappe, crystal pyramid
with bollicine, aquamarine disc,
amber batton with rigadin storto.
Dimensions: 48cm x ø14cm



LE-AQUAMARINE-2

Murano glass:
Aquamarine dome with balloton,
aquamarine pebble, grey olive,
aquamarine batton.
Dimensions: 46cm x ø16cm



LE-BLUE-3

Murano glass:
Blue capsule with bollicine, crystal
disc, rose bead.
Dimensions: 27cm x ø13cm



LE-AMETHIST-1

Murano glass:
Amethyst dome, amethyst bead, coral
pebble with filigree, amethyst olive,
amber batton with rigadin storto.
Dimensions: 50cm x ø16cm



LE-AMETHIST-2

Murano glass:
Amethyst capsule with balloton,
grey pyramid with bollicine,
aquamarine batton.
Dimensions: 47cm x ø13cm



LE-LILAC-1

Murano glass:
Lilac dome, coral pyramid with
filigree, lilac disc.
Dimensions: 23cm x ø16cm

**LE-LILAC-2**

Murano glass:
Lilac dome, blue disc, yellow olive
with balloton, rose batton with
rigadin storto.
Dimensions: 43cm x ø16cm



LE-ROSE-1

Murano glass:
Rose dome, grey bead,
yellow ground olive with
balloton, grey batton.
Dimensions: 45cm x ø16cm

**LE-ROSE-3**

Murano glass:
Rose capsule with balloton,
grey pyramid with bollicine,
amethyst bead.
Dimensions: 33cm x ø13cm



LE-AMBER-2

Murano glass:
Amber bell with cappe, green
bead, green disc, amber
olive, aquamarine batton.
Dimensions: 55cm x ø14cm



LE-AMBER-3

Murano glass:
Amber capsule with balloton,
coral pebble with filigree,
aquamarine bead, lilac batton.
Dimensions: 47cm x ø13cm



LE-CRYSTAL-3

Murano glass:
Crystal dome with balloton, lilac
bead, grey pebble, rose batton
with rigadin storto.
Dimensions: 38cm x ø16cm

**LE-GREY-1**

Murano glass:
Grey dome, grey pyramid with
bollicine, rose bead, grey batton
with rigadin storto.
Dimensions: 41cm x ø16cm



LE-GREY-3

Murano glass:
Grey dome, coral pyramid with
filigree, green batton.
Dimensions: 38cm x ø16cm

**LE-GREEN-1**

Murano glass:
Green dome, blue pyramid,
green bead, aquamarine batton.
Dimensions: 41cm x ø16cm



Bolle collection

N°2

“The Bolle lamps float in the air like bubbles”

“I was thinking about soap bubbles. Their simplicity is beautiful. When they grow and touch each other, just before exploding! They last for only a few seconds but they have something magical. We wanted to use glass to crystalize this moment and create a cluster of bubbles”

After the wonderful experience we had with **Flauti**, we wanted to continue our investigation of glass. The design of **Bolle** was appropriate for another blown glass technique, called “a lume”, another expertise of the Venetian area. This method guarantees a higher precision allowing us to assemble the glass spheres with brass connectors. So the magic becomes a reality! The product is available in two versions of 6 or 4 bubbles. They are positioned so that the bubbles touch each other to obtain a neverending cluster of bubbles. The central brass body hides inside the custom designed **SoftSpot** LED bulb, that bounces circular reflections onto each of the spheres.



BLS14L - Cluster of 3 **Bolle** lamps



Light vs. Lightness

As light has neither weight nor volume, this lamp represents lightness.

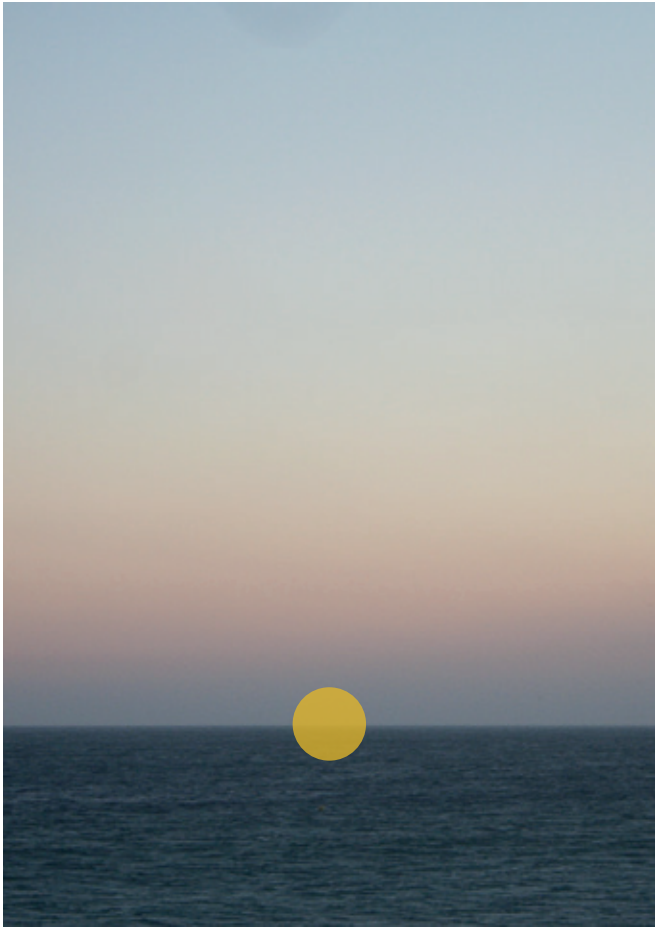


Bolle BLS4



Shades

Transparent glass, brass and light reflect and refract infinite colours and tones.



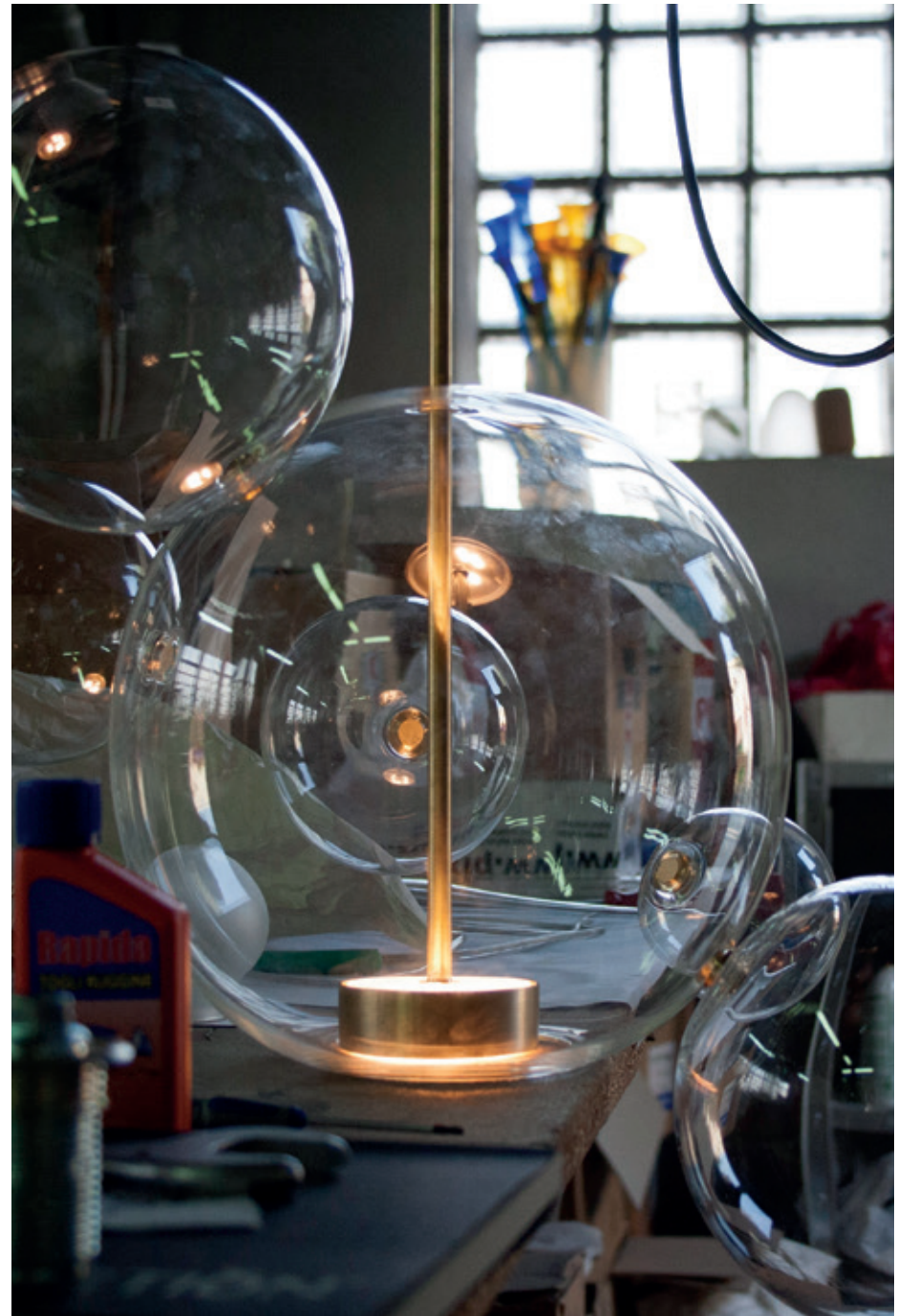
Bolle BLS6

Made by Italians

Together with selected passionate artisans Giopato & Coombes search for excellence. This devotion can be seen in every detail.



The **Bolle** lamps are hand blown by local Venetian artisans using the “a lume” technique.





Bolle BLS6

Bolle Frosted





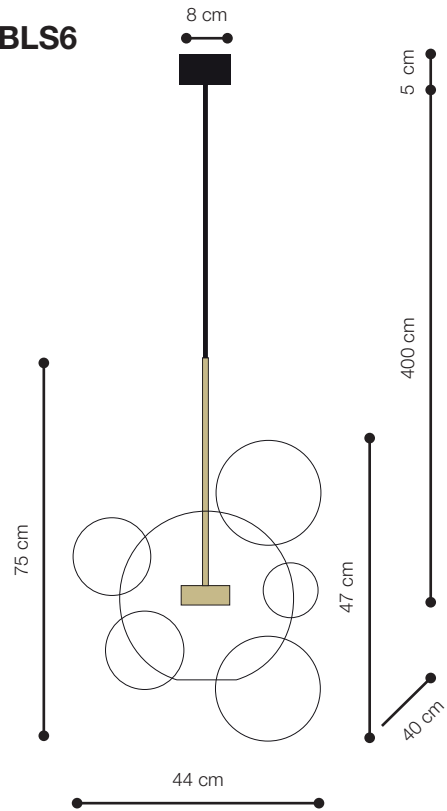
BOLLE FROSTED

Giopato & Coombes
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Bolle

BLS6



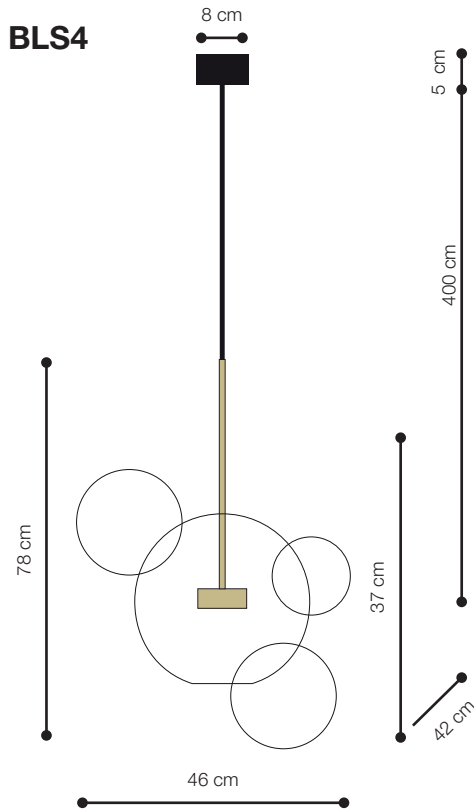
BLS06 TRANSPARENT

Materials: Transparent borosilicate glass, brass or steel connectors.
Fitting: Softspot SPS55 available in brushed brass, burnished brass, blackened brass and brushed nickel.
Dimensions: D40cm x W44cm
Standard Height: 82-400cm
Canopy: 8cm x 5cm black powder coated.
Cable: 400cm black cable.
Bulb (included): Proprietary 7W 350mA Softspot LED
LED Power Supply: 100-240V 50-60Hz mounted inside the canopy
Weight: ~2,0kg

BLS06 FROSTED

Materials: Frosted borosilicate glass, brass or steel connectors.
Fitting: Available in brushed brass, burnished brass, blackened brass and brushed nickel.
Bulb (not included): E27 MAX 57W
Weight: ~2,0kg

BLS4



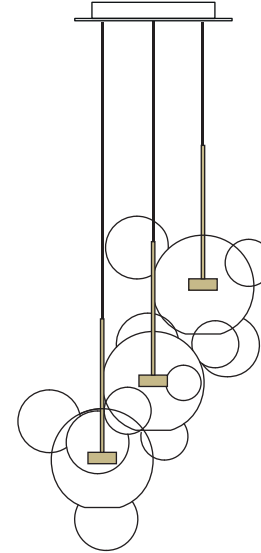
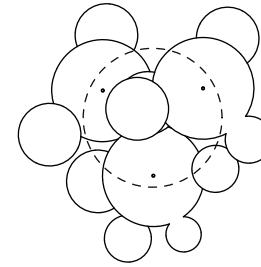
BLS04 TRANSPARENT

Materials: Transparent borosilicate glass, brass or steel connectors.
Fitting: Softspot SPS55 available in brushed brass, burnished brass, blackened brass and brushed nickel.
Dimensions: D42cm x W46cm
Standard Height: 82-400cm
Canopy: 8cm x 5cm black powder coated.
Cable: 400cm black cable.
Bulb (included): Proprietary 7W 350mA Softspot LED
LED Power Supply: 100-240V 50-60Hz mounted inside the canopy
Weight: ~1,8kg

BLS04 FROSTED

Materials: Frosted borosilicate glass, brass or steel connectors.
Fitting: Available in brushed brass, burnished brass, blackened brass and brushed nickel.
Bulb (not included): E27 MAX 57W
Weight: ~1,8kg

Bolle Chandelier

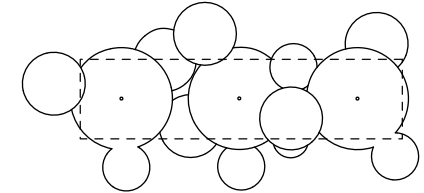


BLS14C TRANSPARENT

3 Pendant Chandelier
Dimensions: D66cm x W64cm
Standard Height: 126,5-400cm
Canopy: White (RAL 9016) Powder Coated
Canopy Dimensions: Ø41cm x H5cm
LED Power Supply: 120V-277V 50W 0-10V / DALI Dimmable
Weight: ~11,5kg

BLS14C FROSTED

3 Pendant Chandelier
Dimensions: D66cm x W64cm
Standard Height: 126,5-400cm
Canopy: White (RAL 9016) Powder Coated
Canopy Dimensions: Ø41cm x H5cm
Bulb: 3x E27 MAX 57W
Weight: ~11,5kg

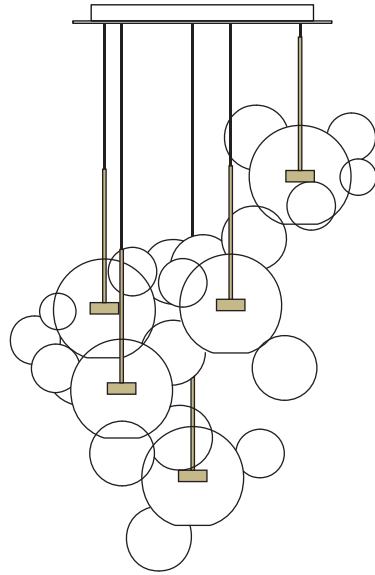
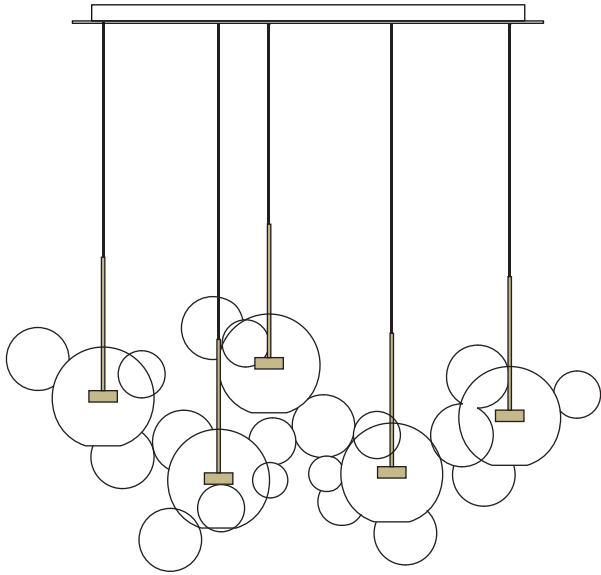
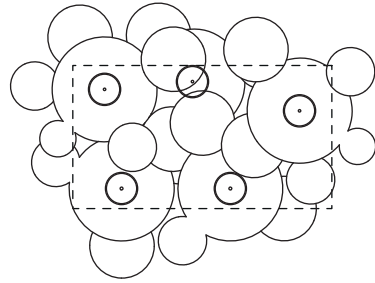
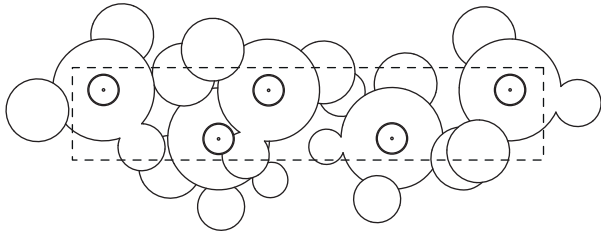


BLS14L TRANSPARENT

3 Pendant Chandelier
Dimensions: D47cm x W101cm
Standard Height: 96,5-400cm
Canopy: White (RAL 9016) Powder Coated
Canopy Dimensions: 18cm x 90cm x H5cm
LED Power Supply: 120V-277V 50W 0-10V / DALI Dimmable
Weight: ~14kg

BLS14L FROSTED

3 Pendant Chandelier
Dimensions: D47cm x W101cm
Standard Height: 96,5-400cm
Canopy: White (RAL 9016) Powder Coated
Canopy Dimensions: 18cm x 90cm x H5cm
Bulb: 3x E27 MAX 57W
Weight: ~14kg



BLS24Z TRANSPARENT

5 Pendant Chandelier

Dimensions: D57cm x W152cm

Standard Height: 111-400cm

Canopy: White (RAL 9016) Powder Coated

Canopy Dimensions: 23cm x 120cm x H5cm

Power Supply: 120V-277V 50W 0-10V / DALI Dimmable

Weight: ~21,5kg

BLS24Z FROSTED

5 Pendant Chandelier

Dimensions: D57cm x W152cm

Standard Height: 111-400cm

Canopy: White (RAL 9016) Powder Coated

Canopy Dimensions: 23cm x 120cm x H5cm

Bulb: 5x E27 MAX 57W

Weight: ~21,5kg

BLS24R TRANSPARENT

5 Pendant Chandelier

Dimensions: D90cm x W68cm

Standard Height: 156,5-400cm

Canopy: White (RAL 9016) Powder Coated

Canopy Dimensions: 36cm x 61cm x H5cm

Power Supply: 120V-277V 50W 0-10V / DALI Dimmable

Weight: ~19,5kg

BLS24R FROSTED

5 Pendant Chandelier

Dimensions: D90cm x W68cm

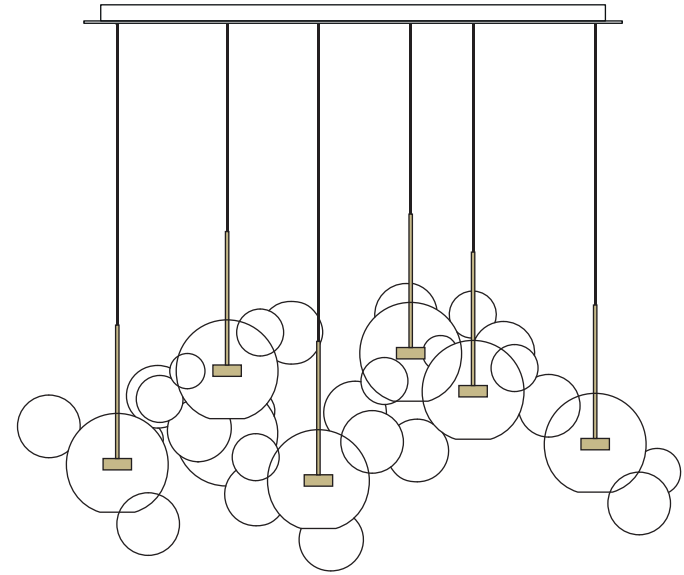
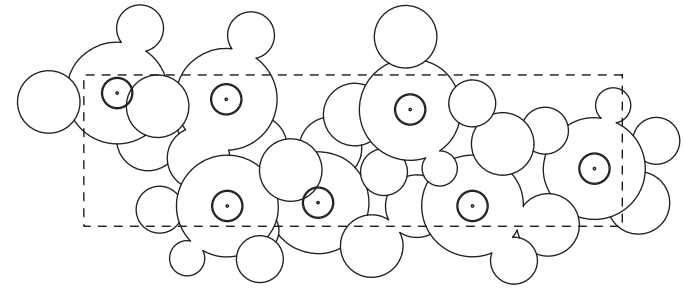
Standard Height: 156,5-400cm

Canopy: White (RAL 9016) Powder Coated

Canopy Dimensions: 36cm x 61cm x H5cm

Bulb: 5x E27 MAX 57W

Weight: ~19,5kg



BLS34Z TRANSPARENT

7 Pendant Chandelier

Dimensions: D70cm x W170cm

Standard Height: 115-400cm

Canopy: White (RAL 9016) Powder Coated

Canopy Dimensions: 36cm x 138cm x H5cm

Power Supply: 120V-277V 50W 0-10V / DALI Dimmable

Weight: ~34kg

BLS34Z FROSTED

7 Pendant Chandelier

Dimensions: D70cm x W170cm

Standard Height: 115-400cm

Canopy: White (RAL 9016) Powder Coated

Canopy Dimensions: 36cm x 138cm x H5cm

Bulb: 7x E27 MAX 57W

Weight: ~34kg

Innovation

Designer **Christopher Coombes** confesses his obsession with innovation and the search for the highest quality in manufacturing.

Winchester, UK

Interview by Edoardo Bianchi



Edoardo: Is it possible to innovate without specialization? Is innovation form or function?

Christopher: We specialize in whatever project we work on! Every project begins with research about the current situation and possible “aspirations” for the product. So we understand the context we are starting from and we have a direction to head for. It is important to switch mentality, materials, processes and solutions from very diverse sectors; a cross-pollination or contamination that leads to a natural innovation that guide both project and client into undiscovered territory, like the Grace chair we designed for Living Divani with a single structure “dressed” with different clothes.

Innovation is both form and function. Actually before I go into that, form and function are neither comparable nor opposites. If we consider the bond between person and product then form or aesthetics is a function. It is the first impression, the cover of the book, which attracts you or repels you long before other functions such as ergonomics or interaction. Products can never be one or the other. We work hard to make functions look beautiful and make beauty become functional in order to intertwine the two together, a kind of love affair that goes beyond this modernist cliché. Innovation is the goal when searching for new forms and new functions, and is the jump between better or different. In a way it’s all we really try to do.

Edoardo: In this project you have decided to produce your own designs. Why? and is it different from when you are commissioned by manufacturers?

Christopher: We are very passionate about our work, and we wanted to follow every stage of the process, from manufacturing to delivery. We wanted to be free from industrial constraints and follow our passions. When working with a company you become part of a powerful engine, with expert teams in different fields. It’s like designing on steroids. We wanted to slow down, and be flexible, redo prototypes, push for absolute perfection and meet amazing Italian artisans. It is like a balance, a sort of therapy for our normal work which can sometimes feel like a whirlwind. You can only imagine the intensive AgustaWestland workshop with Giulio Cappellini in 2014, it was amazing, like the white room in the Matrix just before diving into a surreal parallel world.

And lamps just made sense. I have a burning desire to design better products. So I research into materials, processes, architectures, physics, ergonomics, interaction and sustainability. Through the use of the latest technologies today we can mix things up a lot more, move quicker, and generally risk more, combining all of our research. With lamps there was no doubt we would use LEDS, and we decided to redesign the entire component chain, from ceiling plate to LED bulb, evolving traditional lighting architecture, creating custom components on steroids in the process! The 7W LED bulb is double sided, with heatsink zones that transfer heat to the brass ring, along with three air tunnels that pass over the LED bulb. There are no screws in the bulb assembly. We have developed a tiny 80mm diameter canopy with an internal 8W power supply. With the **Bolle** product we have a process for balancing the handmade spheres. These high quality elements improve the product experience over time, thereby reinforcing the bond between product and person which is why it is great to work with Cristiana as she has a talent for designing objects that reach people’s hearts with a beauty that communicates directly and immediately with our emotions.

Edoardo: Flauti lamps are a series of modules that can be assembled to create personalised lamps. Do you often work with personalisation?

Christopher: We like to open a creative conversation with people who buy our products. So we design product systems where we suggest the first solutions which can then be personalised and even evolved by the final user. The **Flauti** lamps are a combination of 7 forms and 7 colours which have endless opportunities for assembly. We want to offer the opportunity for architects, interior designers and people to compose their own lamp, which is part of the fun when working with Murano glass as every piece is unique, like a prototype. I like thinking about the creative and reproduction processes of different industries from music to web to fashion. It can lead to inspired industrial solutions.

Edoardo: How did you become a designer and what advice would you give to someone who wants to start your profession?

Christopher: I became a Designer by studying Industrial Design at Brunel University followed by 5 years of experience as a design assistant first for George Sowden and then Sebastian Bergne. It was fundamental to work on projects at the highest level, working on products for some of the largest consumer brands in the world. It’s tough to know what advice to give. We follow this advice by Renzo Piano: *“Creating is like looking into the dark. At first you can’t see anything, and then your eyes adjust. So, you need to have courage to look into the dark.”* As a designer you have to follow your instinct and work continuously to keep improving. Designing with passion puts yourself into a very vulnerable position and at the beginning it is easy to find reasons to pull out, to delay things, and to get hurt, clearly you have to get over this. Another great phrase I heard recently: *“the best sailors don’t learn on calm seas”*. In this respect my advice for a young designer would be to go and work in Milan which is similar to the perfect storm. Just keep pushing yourself.

Edoardo: What part of being a designer do you like the most?

Christopher: I like optimising everything. Right now I am into designing products which allow industrial variation, which I believe is good for everyone. I am very much a rational problem solver, where Cristiana is more of an intuitive solution finder (and problem maker!). I love turning ideas into reality.

Edoardo: What part of being an entrepreneur do you like the most?

Christopher: It’s the next big learning curve. It is complete and utter darkness, like on the boat in the ocean darkness. It is the start of a new journey full of new experiences.

SoftSpot

N°3

“SoftSpot lamp is the technological core of the Flauti and Bolle lamps”

“LED lighting is the future so we couldn’t use components from the past. We have designed everything from scratch giving us complete freedom to create a versatile high quality light source at the core of our first edition of lamps. We wanted to create a self-contained innovative bulb assembly that simplifies current lighting architecture.”

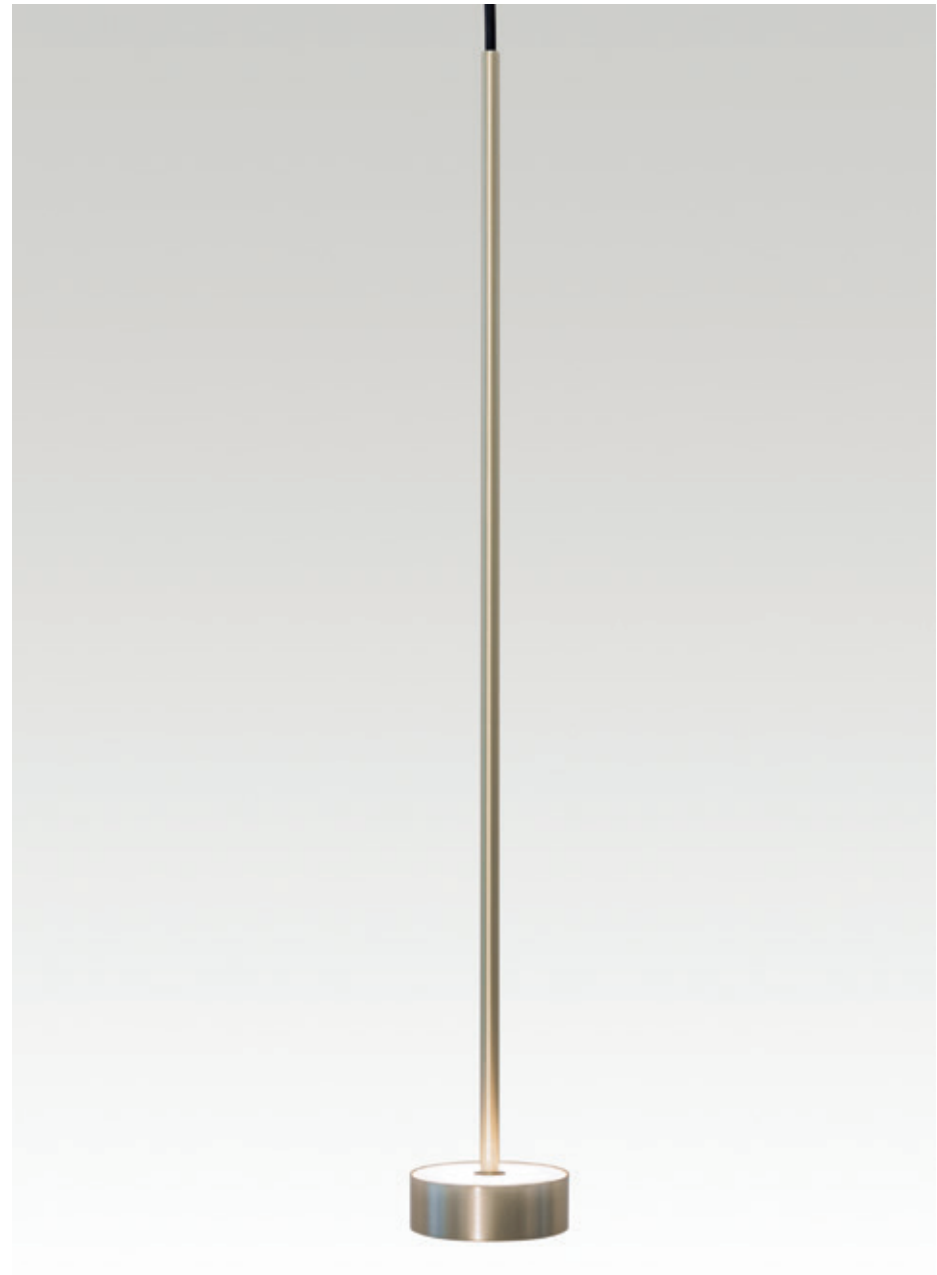
The **SoftSpot** lamp is 100% designed and custom-made from the ceiling plate to the 7W LED bulb. The single internal wheel component fuses together heat-sink, socket and cable block functions whilst allowing light to pass through. The only externally visible details are 3 air tunnels that add extra cooling by channelling air over the LED plate. The canopy has been designed to fit an efficient power supply into a tiny 80mm x 50mm cylinder, that simplifies installations in renovations. The external simplicity of the lamp is only possible due to the innovative solutions and meticulous detailing on the inside. The internal components have been designed for maximum cooling of the LED bulb to ensure high performance and a long-life. LEDs are mounted on both sides of the custom made **SoftSpot** bulb which is mounted directly onto the heatsink wheel which filters light both upwards and downwards whilst transferring heat to the outer brass ring.”

A New Source

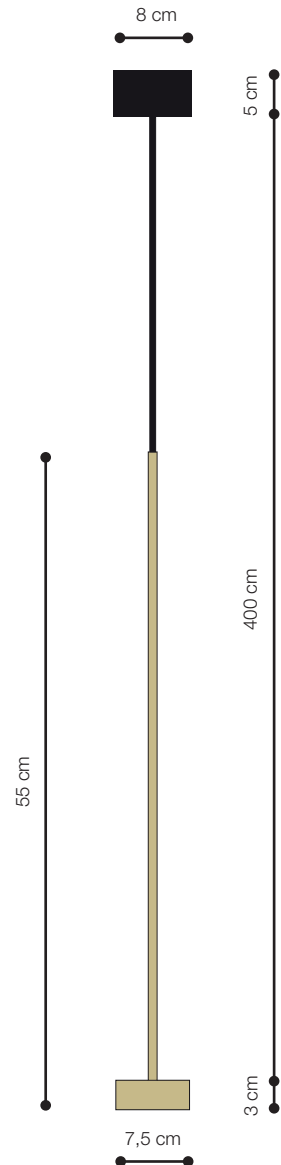
The **SoftSpot** 7W LED warm white lamp emits 75% light downwards for focused direct lighting and 25% upwards for low indirect lighting. The result is a soft interior atmosphere from a pure form.



The minimal exterior hides an internal architecture manufactured with clockwork precision for extreme LED cooling.



SoftSpot®



Category: Suspension Lamp

Materials: Brass





Finishes: Brushed brass, burnished brass, blackened brass and brushed nickel.

Light Source: Proprietary 7W 350mA LED (included): 280 Lumens, 75% downwards and 25% upwards. 2700°K warm white. CRI 96. Energy label A.

LED Power Supply: 100-240V 50-60Hz mounted inside the canopy. Dimmable LED Power Supply on request.

Cable: 400cm black cable. Extra cable on request. White cable on request.

Canopy: 8cm x 5cm black powder coated.

Finishes	Product Code
 Brushed Brass	SPS55009
 Burnished Brass	SPS55030
 Blackened Brass	SPS55059
 Brushed Nickel	SPS55060

OPTIONS

Dimmable power supply (with ø11 cm canopy)

White cable

White ceiling cup

Brushed brass ceiling cup

10m cable

Extra LED bulb

SoftSpot height 35cm - 100cm

SoftSpot height with extension 101cm - 200cm

Notes

Lead Time:

2 weeks if in stock, otherwise 4-6 weeks from order confirmation.

Shipping:

Free shipping on orders over €500 within the EU.

Prices:

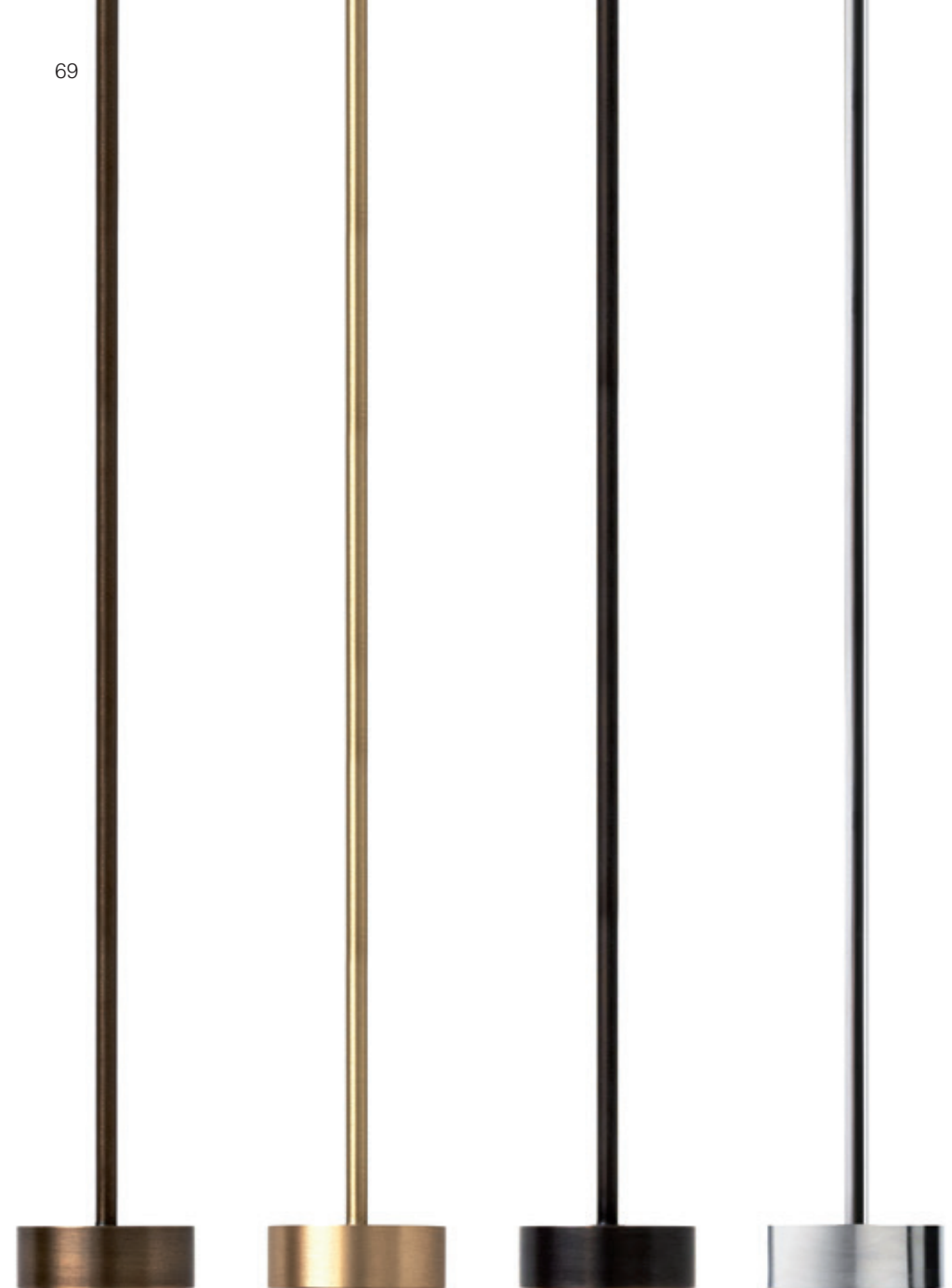
Recommended retail prices in Euro excluding v.a.t.

Installation:

Giopato & Coombes recommends mounting power supplies remotely in an accessible and hidden location nearby for ease of long-term maintenance. Installation must be carried out by certified personnel.

Artisanal Production:

The brass components include hand brazed joints that will have small irregularities which are proof of an artisanal production. All brass components are finished by hand and so may contain small imperfections, and slight changes in tone.



Burnished brass

Brushed brass

Blackened brass

Brushed nickel

He & She

Giopato&Coombes
design products with
emotional impact that
combine the highest
quality in Italian artisan
manufacturing and British
innovation.

Cristiana Giopato and Christopher Coombes began working together in 2006, driven by their desire to combine their design approach, in a continuous contamination between cultures and visions. They realise that diversity is their strength, and when these reach an equilibrium the project is defined. Intuition and rationality are the characteristics that distinguish one from the other in terms of creative approach. Their products are designed to meet two often conflicting qualities: industrial innovation and emotional impact.



Giopato & Coombes editions

January 2016

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