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“A few years ago, while working on WireLine, we experimented with the illuminating filament of LED bulbs. We liked its aesthetic presence and its flexibility, we imagined using it as a removable light source, one that could be replaceable by anyone. SuperWire is the result of a journey that lasted years and owes a lot to the Flos Research and Development team who managed to transform the functional detail of a mainstream product into a unique light source. A project that we care a lot about and which represents a change of pace in LED lighting”.

Andea Trimarchi and Simone Farresin – Formafantasma

SuperWire is the first family of modular lamps designed by Formafantasma for Flos: made of planar glass and polished aluminum, its design originated from the development of a custom-made light source that emits a warm and homogeneous light.

FLOS

SuperWire is a family of modular lamps designed by **Formafantasma** for Flos. A magical and poetic project, with an essential design but a great **stage presence**, which recalls the work of the great glass masters of the last century.

Available in table and suspension versions, the collection has sober and timeless elegance, perfect for **sophisticated but composed environments**: its look evokes that of the **lanterns** of the past but brought into contemporary times by the quality of the light it emits.

Made up of one or more hexagons of planar glass connected by a polished aluminum element, SuperWire lights up its entire surface thanks to a new source developed by the Flos R&D team: a very thin, flat, soft, flexible LED strip measuring up to one meter, which emits a warm and homogeneous light along its entire length and which can be easily removed for replacement and repair. A unique example in the panorama of LED bulb-less lamps.

“We liked the idea of an elegant design but we wanted to steer away from the idea of craftsmanship and get closer to an industrial aesthetic, albeit decorative, because this is a mass-produced lamp,” explain Formafantasma. “For this reason we chose planar, industrial glass and a geometric look, with the mechanical constituent elements – base, top and screws – that remain visible. The latter also serve to facilitate disassembly and replacement of the light source when necessary.”

The basic module and the custom light source: an important technical and design challenge

The family develops starting from a basic module: a hexagon that emits light along its entire length (45 cm for the table model, 75 cm for the others), with six sides formed by glass sheets that house three bright straws each.

Each straw is a combination of three cylinders (two centerers with high diffusion efficiency and a borosilicate diffuser) inserted into each other with, in the centre, the custom light source: a long flexible and flat filament of LEDs that allows the exit of light at 360 degrees.

The six glass sheets are held together at the base and in the upper part, by a hexagonal element in natural, polished aluminium with large exposed steel screws. It is these two metal plates that allow the assembly of multiple modules together to create the different versions of the family.

The technical challenge, faced by the Flos Research & Development team, was to adapt an existing product - the filament used in LED bulbs, in fact - to obtain a homogeneous and warm light and express that quality in an atypical length (not commonly found filaments longer than 30 cm on the market).

“The project was a decidedly important technical challenge”, explain Formafantasma, “and the filament obtained is, to all intents and purposes, a new light source with great potential which we will certainly use in the future”.

A family of lamps

SuperWire was born as a family built around the basic module. Four versions are presented at the Fuorisalone 2024.

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The table one consists of a single module h 45 cm, surmounted by a hexagonal glass cover.

As for suspensions, the two models being currently produced are:

the one with three hexagonal modules (h 75 cm) assembled in a cluster

the one with five modules (h 75 cm) assembled on three levels

Both are designed for great heights with the latter available as bespoke model for the contract world.

The floor lamp is built with two 75 cm high modules, placed one above the other, resting on a steel tripod, a tribute to the historic Luminator by the Castiglioni brothers.

“Being designed as a system, SuperWire can expand to create a wide variety of custom solutions for the contract world or for important residential spaces,” explain the designers.

Technical details:

SuperWire table, 1 module h 45 cm

SuperWire S3: 3 modules h 75 cm assembled in a cluster

SuperWire S5: 5 modules h 75 cm on three levels, for large heights (Bespoke model)

SuperWire Floor: 2 modules h 75 cm, with tripod



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