

RIBA Journal and lighting manufacturer Whitegoods challenged you to come up with a design for a light fitting good enough to be put into production. Here's the winner and the best of the rest

Leading lights

Winner

Gavin Harris.
Mackay & Partners - Line of Light

The simplest ideas are often the best. Gavin Harris' Line of Light is simple in the extreme: a metal extrusion holding two fluorescent, or perhaps cold cathode, tubes with light reflected out from the polished interior of the metal. Line of Light could be used freestanding in the corner of a room, mounted on a ceiling or along the edge of the floor - spreading a gentle light out along its edge.

The judges agreed that it was an elegant idea that was a 'step on from any other product'. They were excited by the possibilities for using different coloured lights on the two sides which could be switched on and off independently, or using them to create long rays of light, or even cantilevering the whole thing. They were also impressed by how efficiently Line of Light could be manufactured, from a single extrusion.

Other submissions looked at solving familiar problems. Tuppeny & Carter

Architects attempted to deal with how rooflights could provide effective light, even when it was dark outside, without cluttering the ceiling. The Rooflight Luminaire used a light within the rooflight reveal, combined with an acrylic reflector. The Nefertiti light attempted to address the bigger problem of carbon-hungry lights. The design, by Michael Pawlyn and Charlie Paton, ingeniously optimised light collection with a solar concentrator tracking the sun (based on ancient Egyptian techniques - hence the name). The captured sunlight is reflected deep into buildings.

Designs were judged by architects Glenn Howells, Steve Marshall of Munkenbeck + Marshall, Oliver Richards of ORMS, Douglas James of Minds Eye and Eleanor Young of the RIBA Journal.

Whitegoods will work with Harris to manufacture Line of Light; look out for it in autumn 2007.

Runners-up

The two runners-up showed very different approaches, each with simple components.

The N180°, designed by Nord Architecture, fired the judges' imagination. They were taken with the idea of a three-dimensional composition with a series of these hinged lights. 'Great for animating a wall in a reception,' they said.

Tonkin Liu's Doorlight was described as a 'spined entry' for the way it turns an object into a light. The door acts as a shallow light box - controlled from the handle which doubles as a dimmer switch. The judges thought it had particular potential for commercial and retail interiors.



Doorlight



N180°