

Sorpresa

Samuel Wilkinson
2024

The pure idea of surprise



Lightweight elegance, striking presence, yet effortlessly expandable. Astep's new chandelier expresses a vision of innovation balancing aesthetics, functionality, and environmental responsibility to literally unfold the experience of light.

A challenging idea, pushing the boundaries of design to meet higher standards, Astep wanted to create a centerpiece that would occupy minimal space when in a box, yet open in impressive volume. A piece made of recyclable or natural material and instead of an embedded LED solution using a bulb as light source to support environmental responsibility at all levels of the design.

Taking a traditional wool winder as inspiration, designer Samuel Wilkinson has created a new iconic chandelier, Sorpresa, that automatically opens out and expands in a single effortless gesture. The warm tone of the sanded oak structure elegantly complements the off-white transparent mesh of subtle horizontal patterns, defining the distinctive airiness of the lamp, soft and approachable.

"I wanted to create a piece that would intrigue. As its name suggests, the essence of the lamp is 'surprise'. We looked at various collapsible objects for inspiration and found a traditional shaker wool winder. It was the low-tech expandable timber construction that I admired most, the simple movement and expression," says designer Samuel Wilkinson.



Sorpresa

A key challenge was to create an expandable object without a structural center pole to be able to center the light source for a diverse and characteristic quality of light: "The intention was to give Sorpresa a strong yet subtle personality when both on and off. When off, the light source nearly disappears within the lamp but still revealing the distinctive frame, when on, the light source is presented like a floating orb in centre of the volume with limited shadowing from the frame," explains Samuel Wilkinson.

Being one of the few lighting design brands to achieve the B Corp certification of verified social and environmental impact, Sorpresa embodies Astep's core values. The chandelier is made from natural and recycled materials and is fully repairable with easily replaceable parts, using only mechanical fixings. The way Sorpresa is packaged and delivered is equally important, so the selected size of the standard 6-inch tube defined the size of the final product, spanning 110 cm embracing the wooden structure.

"The challenging idea to create a lightweight, collapsible, volume lamp comes out of more than aesthetics and functionality, it essentially expresses Astep's respect for the environment and commitment to circular design, to continuously seeking new ways of improving and being more responsible to cause minimal residual impact. In this sense, Sorpresa is very honest in its approach," says founder of Astep, Alessandro Sarfatti.

Sorpresa is introduced at Salone del Mobile 16-21 April.

Come meet us at La.barassi Architettura Studio
Piazza del Carmine 2, 20121 Milano.

For further questions, please contact
rebecca@astep.design