

August 2017, Villaz-St-Pierre

Matterlight, a sugar and rapeseed lamp

Crafted by hand in Fribourg, Switzerland, the Matterlight table lamp boasts a lampshade in the iconic shape of the Matterhorn - a precise reproduction achieved thanks to 3D mapping and drones overflying the famous mountain. The molding is made of organic resin without any petrochemical substances.

The lamp is the brainchild of Boris Dennler, a native of French-speaking Switzerland usually known for his unique pieces at the crossroads of art and design.

Disheartened by the ruthless world of big design brands who reward designers with meager royalties (should their project be miraculously accepted), Dennler decided to revert to "homework".

"The object was conceived with the idea of being able to do everything ourselves, without the need to delocalize, and using materials that are environmentally acceptable."

The project was made possible thanks to Pix4D, the company that provided the computer files. The 3D mapping software developed by Pix4D helped to bring together millions of data items collected by drones.

The next step was to create the print with a high-precision 3D printer from the EPFL.

Following several unsuccessful attempts at thermoforming, it became clear that molding was the best production solution.

The designer resorted to a new, specifically formulated organic resin made essentially from rapeseed, sugar and other organic adjuvants. Beside its beautiful translucence, this unbreakable material presents an incredible texture resembling crushed snow.

The Matterhorn lamp will not be mass-produced.

"It will be difficult for us to produce more than 6 or 7 lamps a day. The lamp will remain a homemade object, which is part of its charm. Our target clients are tourists, as well as mountain lovers and design aficionados."

The lamp is currently on sale in its wood case at www.matterlight.ch or our retailers, at the affordable price of CHF 349.-.

A mountain and design enthusiast, Swiss designer Boris Dennler channels both passions through Matterlight. He also works in the field of decoration, specifically designing and crafting custom furniture. Woodenheap, his most iconic piece, is exhibited in the permanent collection of the Victoria & Albert Museum in London. His work has been presented in Paris, Milan and Brussels, and has been acquired by prestigious collectors such as Uli Sigg in Lucerne or the Pierre Bergé Foundation.

He lives and works in Villaz-St-Pierre, in the canton of Fribourg.

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