

ART & DESIGN STUDIES PRODUCT DESIGN – LIGHTING



Designer: Philippe Starck (born 1949)

Nationality: French

Title: Ara Lamp (1988)

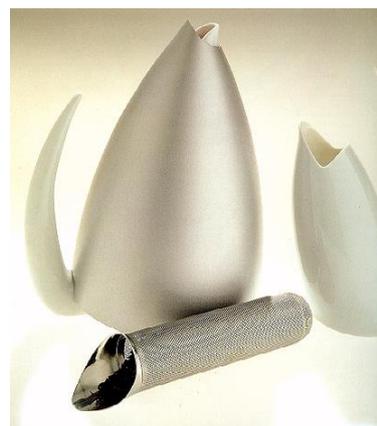
Materials: Chrome plated metal halogen table lamp



The 'horn' shape used in the design of the ara lamp is a favourite motif used in many of Starck's designs like "Mister MeuMeu" Cheese grater and spoon (1992) or the Ti lang Teapot (1992). It's simple and elegant form, like much of Starck's work is both masculine and feminine. It combines flowing feminine curves with the aggressive masculine gesture of a bull horn. The chrome plated metal halogen lamps are inspired by bullhorns, and its sleek appearance is helped by the absence of a visible light switch. Starck has designed the Ara lamp to be operated by tilting the horn backwards and forwards inviting the user to interact with the lamp. The lamp head also allows the angle of the light to be adjusted. The choice of chrome plating gives the Ara lamp a very sophisticated and contemporary look. This sleek shiny appearance is in contrast with what you would expect from a bullhorn and it is this contradiction which gives this lamp a slightly quirky, fun, appearance whilst maintaining its elegance.



"Mister MeuMeu" Cheese grater and spoon (1992)



Ti lang Teapot (1992)

ART & DESIGN STUDIES

DESIGNER PROFILE



Philippe Starck (born 1949)

Philippe Patrick Starck was born in Paris in 1949 the son of an aircraft designer. It is he who probably inspired the young Starck. Even at a very early age Starck showed enthusiasm for design.

He was educated in Paris at Ecole Nissim de Camondo where he dropped out and founded his first design firm whilst still a teenager that specialised in inflatable objects. During the 1970's Starck designed two interiors for Paris nightclubs and founded the "Starck Product" company. His career really took off when he won the attention of french president Francois Mitterand who assigned him to decorate a suite in the Elysee palace.

After this date more and more works appear on his CV. His most recent occupations include a mouse for Microsoft, yachts and even new packaging for a beer company. He has been commissioned to design the Virgin Galactic "spaceport" in New Mexico. He has also designed hotels all over the world. Unlike many other designers, Starck's work does not concentrate on the creation of expensive single pieces. Instead his product designs are of usable household items who Starck himself helps to market for mass production.

His products are often stylized, streamlined and organic in their look and are also constructed using unusual combinations of materials (such as glass and stone, plastic and aluminum, plush fabric and chrome, etc.). Two of these designs include stylish toothbrushes 1989 and a sleek lemon press dubbed the *Juicy Salif* 1990. The Juicy Salif, in fact, has since become an affordable and popular cult item.

He has designed many Interiors and hotels endless quantities of chairs, television sets, lamps, a toothbrush, and even past. During the eighties 1980's and 1990's was influenced by fashion and novelty. It has even been referred to by some as being 'overdesigned'. In the 21st century his approach to design seems to have changed.

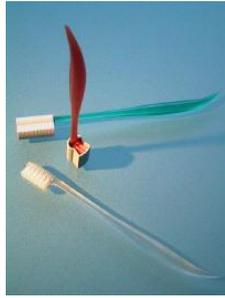
Starck has recently promoted the ethos that honesty and integrity should be at the core of design. Products should not be created as 'throwaway artifacts', only surviving for as long as they remain in fashion but should ideally have longevity and durability. He believes that as designers we need to be both honest and objective. He has also developed more of an interest in ecology and environmental issues as well as his humanist philosophy which now influences his work and seen him set up an organic food company amongst other things.

He lives in different cities across the world including Paris, New York and London and is the king of modern design.

Other Designs by Philippe Starck



Juicy Salif lemon squeezer (1990)



Fluocaril toothbrush (1989)



Ring watch (2003)