

February 2019

NEMO: « LA LUCE », LE CORBUSIER AND CHARLOTTE PERRIAND AT FIRMINY.

FOR THE FIRST TIME “LA LUCE” EXHIBITION WILL BE INSTALLED IN A BUILDING, THE SAINT-PIERRE CHURCH DESIGNED BY LE CORBUSIER, SURROUNDED BY THE INCREDIBLE “FIRMINY-VERT SITE”, WITH THE UNESCO-LISTED MAISON DE LA CULTURE, STADIUM AND UNITEE’ D’HABITATION.

OPENING DURING SAINT-ETIENNE BIENNALE, FIRMINY, SAINT PIERRE CHURCH FROM MARCH 22nd UNTIL NOVEMBER 3rd 2019

From March 22nd until November 3rd, the design and architecture lovers could discover, for the first time in a Le Corbusier building, “La Luce” exhibition devoted to Le Corbusier’s and Charlotte Perriand’s creations.

This unique exhibition created by the Italian lighting brand NEMO brings together Le Corbusier’s and Charlotte Perriand’s works and presents the research and design concerning lighting, so beloved by the two big architects and designers, that marked the history of 20th century.

Unpublished prototypes, unique creations, archival documents, pictures, original drawings and sketches are exhibited together with the architectural work of the two designers.

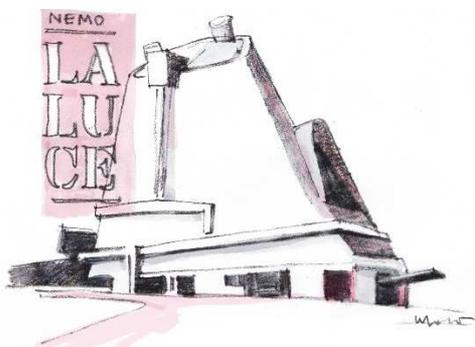
“La Luce” is an itinerant exhibition constantly growing, where new editions and new discoveries, like newly restored original pieces, are added at each new opening”, says the curator Valentina Folli who designed the exhibition with her Studio UNA.

La Luce exhibition, originally conceived as a chronological path intertwining Le Corbusier and Charlotte Perriand selected works on lighting had to be re-arranged for the Saint-Pierre Church, due to the open masterplan of the church’s basement.

As the basement composition of adjoining rooms leaves the visitor free to move around and contemplate the space from different angles, so the exhibition flow was organized into thematic areas, connected to each other.

The rhythm of the exhibition is also designed to follow the façade succession of windows and walls and the building floors shifts: Le Corbusier on the ground floor, Perriand in the

mezzanine, a stretched out visiting pace, to discover the original prototypes through the exhibition, to explore the space, and to immerse into the Masters pioneering visions.



The design of the lights, their positioning, their strengths are constantly located in the point of tension between the shadow and the light, between necessity and comfort, between simplicity and mystery.

Even before having achieved his architectural creations, Le Corbusier designs some lighting fixtures for the interiors of his first clients' apartments. Thereafter, he continuously designs lighting fixtures to accompany all his buildings, from the modest Cabanon de Roquebrune-Cap-Martin to the buildings of the Capitole de Chandigarh.

He will use bulbs with « thin and opal » glass for his apartment at rue Nungesser et Coli. For the most part, he will inspire to the existing systems or objects that he adapts, transforms, paints. All will keep a simple shape, composed by poor materials, that will adapt perfectly to the linear elements of his architecture without « contaminating » it, without decorating it.

Federico Palazzari, CEO of NEMO, says.

“We believe that, when designing architecture and objects, we are obliged to look forward and to look back at the same time, between traces of the past and ambitions for the future, to reach the idea of “good project”, that inspires our work.

When speaking of Le Corbusier and Charlotte Perriand, Nemo is the contemporary interpreter of the projects suggested by them.

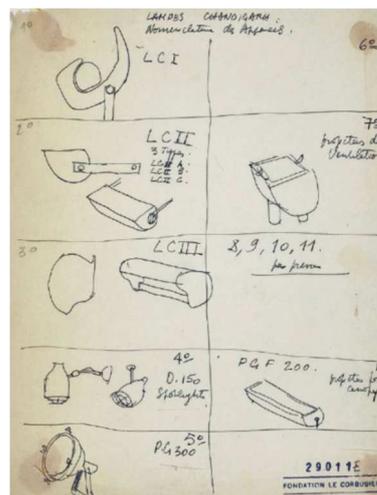
Le Corbusier and Charlotte Perriand's lamps were designed to be absolute projects, but they were realized exclusively for the architectures for which



they were designed.

Nemo, the Le Corbusier Foundation and Pernette Perriand took together the original suggestion and realized projects that are and will be a reference in the design world.

Quality of product is found in its discreet presence in every environment. Its being does not need aesthetic justifications and it lives simply by doing its job. In the same way, those lamps, created for innovative and strongly modern architectural and interior projects, suggest a timeless quality that makes them simple, iconic and always authentic. Nemo's job, along with Le Corbusier Foundation and Charlotte Perriand's Archives, consisted in calibrating details, finishes and technical updates, without ever betraying the original essence of the products, in order not to fall in the nostalgic or in the vintage and not to change the spartan and sophisticated nature that makes them unique. For this reason, Nemo, after the studies and selection of these last years, wishes to share this exclusive material, for the first time, in an exercise that we believe it is beautiful, useful and new."



ESCARGOT (LCI)

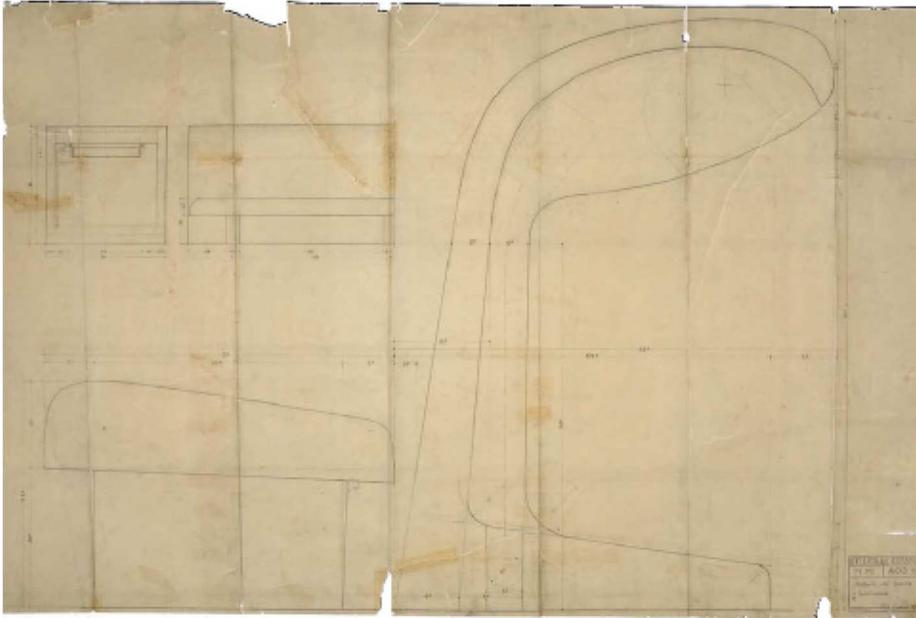
Le Corbusier, 1951-52

Version on pole for the Firminy Unité d'habitations, France.

Original note listing the Chandigarh Lamps ©FLC/ADAGP.

« Editing Charlotte Perriand lightings with Nemo means let past creations live again in the modern world, to make them accessible to a large number of people. It means to demonstrate that "correct" works, created 50 or 70 years ago, still respond to modern needs. Most of the avant-garde people, as Charlotte Perriand, always wanted to reach the masses but at the time they did not succeed. Thanks to Nemo, what was impossible in the past, today it is realized.>>

Pernette Perriand Barzac



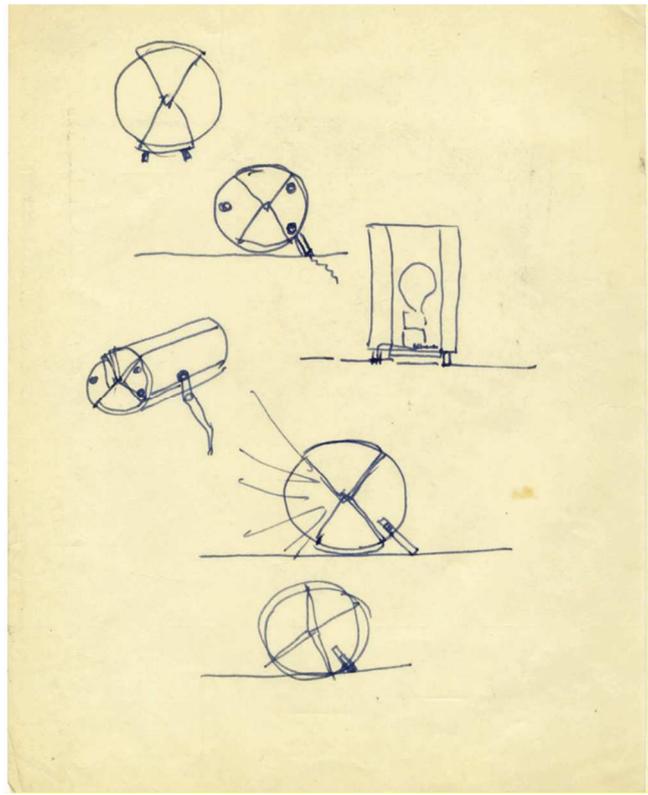
BORNE BÉTON

Le Corbusier, 1952

Grande and Petite versions, by NEMO.

Original sketch ©FLC/ADAGP.

Left: Petite version, by NEMO.



PIVOTANTE À POSER

Charlotte Perriand, 1950s

Original sketch ©achp/adagp.

Main Partner: NEMO SrL, an Italian company specialized in the production of design lamps founded by Cassina SPA in 1993 in Milan. Exclusive producer of lighting collections created by Le Corbusier and Charlotte Perriand. Nemo is present in over 40 countries today. The headquarters is in Milan, with branches in Paris and the USA. Since 2013 it is owned by Federico Palazzari.

Curator: Valentina Folli

Exhibition design: UNA (Valentina Folli, Margherita Paleari, Andrea Castelli)

Archive materials: Fondation Le Corbusier and Archives Charlotte Perriand.

