

DESIGN INNOVATIONS FOR PROFESSIONAL

MONITOR

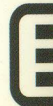
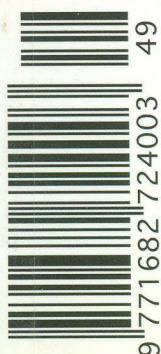
00600000



JAKOB+MACFARLANE
+ light special

plus jensen.skodvin macullo denari bernaskoni plaren nendo 22quadrat jamo cj.studio .

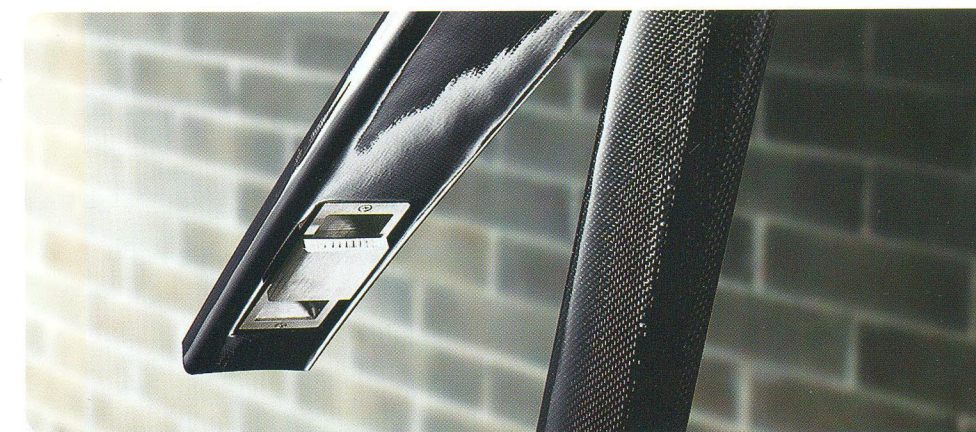
.D/ 14.95 EURO .I/ 14.95 EURO .F/ 15.95 EURO .UK/ 9.95 GBP



007

itre

PRODUCT: «KATANA» // DESIGN: VALERIO COMETTI with PAOLO BALZANELLI
MANUFACTURER: ITRE // INFO: WWW.ITRESRL.COM



A cooperative effort of designer Valerio Cometti (V12) and architect Paolo Balzanelli (Arkispazio), Katana resulted from the idea to produce a lamp whose shape and finish would make it, first of all, a fascinating object. The luminaire is produced by Italian manufacturer itre that has supported the entire development process. «Without sounding cocky, we wanted to create a sculpture, an extremely delicate yet strong visual statement, at its best in spacious places,» says Cometti. «Needless to say that its function echoes Castiglioni's Arco: the Katana is made by two elements — its vertical blade seems to spring from the floor and supports the horizontal blade that hovers above the watcher's head.» The geometry of both blades has been painstakingly tuned and honed in order to achieve the profiles and sections the two designers were looking for. Sections near the light source have been most complicated, since the designers needed to balance thermal issues (carbon fibre cannot withstand the heat coming from the halogen source) with the desire to keep the blades as slender as possible. One particularly interesting detail is the way the two blades intersect: the vertical one goes through the horizontal one like a thread through a needle, forming a joint that hasn't got a mechanical feeling. «To increase the sense of refined dynamism, the horizontal blade throws itself asymmetrically off the joint, balanced by what we think is a neat and elegant way of setting the distance between the light source and floor. There is a weight at the end of the horizontal blade, and it runs within a slot. By simply repositioning this weight, the user changes the balance of the horizontal arm, which then places itself in a higher/lower position,» explains Cometti. The pedestal has also been an object of intensive research-and-development. A number of elaborated options have been finally rejected in favour of an ultra-simple shape — this final version emphasizes the tension with which the Katana seems to be stuck into the floor.

Working with a composite material allowed Cometti and Balzanelli to achieve the desired shape. Non-constant cross sections and curved profiles meant that few other processes could have been utilized. The use of carbon fibre gives further importance to the object, and not only for its intrinsic value. The fine thread — the designers have tested several kinds — becomes readable only when looking at the lamp from a close distance, while the lacquered finish represents a further invitation to investigate the geometry of the lamp savouring the way the light interacts with the form.