

# INHALE PENDANT LUMINAIRE

REVIEWED BY PAUL NULTY

Designed by Japanese design practice Nendo for leading hand-blown glass manufacturer Lasvit, the clear-glass pendant lamp Inhale gets the designer on design treatment

**I**t was with much trepidation that I opened the large box that recently arrived on my desk, partly because I knew it contained a sample luminaire from a new collection designed by renowned Japanese design practice Nendo and partly because the courier had that 'I've dropped your parcel' guilty look in his eye.

Such anticipation wasn't misplaced; the collection is commissioned by Czech Republic glass manufacturer Lasvit, a specialist in hand-blown glass, and this collection

claims to be as 'unique as the glass blowers themselves'.

Luckily the sample arrived with plenty of bubble wrap and, amid obligatory popping (you never really grow out of it, do you?), was revealed as the Inhale pendant luminaire: a clear glass suspended 'shade'

with a clear lamp in the centre.

The shade itself is a thing of beauty; the visual lightness of it is testament to the quality of glass blowing Lasvit is able to produce.

My first impression is that it looks 'crumpled', almost fluid. Nendo designer Oki Sato is quoted as saying: 'Working with glass is like working with water', and this quality is there in abundance.

The shape of the shade is created by blowing glass into the form of an air bubble then sucking the air away – it's a form created by negative air pressure. The base of the shade is domed, housing a bare halogen lamp, and sadly it's this 'luminaire' part of the fixture where things are not quite so delicate.

I can't help but think that a bare light bulb detracts from the beauty of the shade, and

certainly the halogen lamp supplied with the fitting is glary and unsubtle, again at odds with the shade. I'd prefer not to see a light source at all and make the fitting all about the glass shade, but at the very least this is a light fitting designed for markets where high-energy GLS bulbs still rule.

A retro-fit LED or compact fluorescent lamp would be heresy to such a beautiful piece of glass. I'm not entirely sure how such a luminaire will sell in a marketplace where GLS lamps are being phased out.

The fitting also comes with a white plastic flex that belies its quality – a braided flex would be much better.

This is an original design piece and I think the glass is gorgeous, but the heavy-handed lamp and associated assembly should be designed with the delicacy and quality of the glass itself in mind.

The saving grace is that the fitting also comes in a white glass – where much of the lamp is concealed, for this and such a stunning piece of glass design I'm giving it a 7 out of 10.



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## THE JUDGE

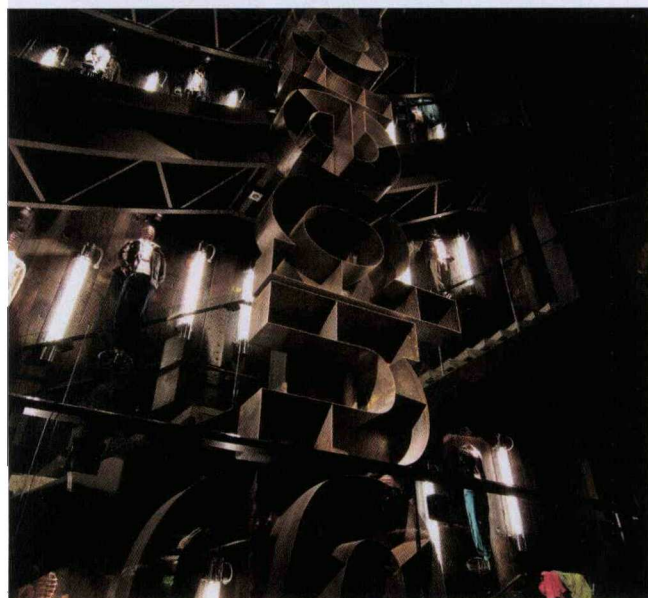


### Paul Nulty

Paul Nulty started his own lighting design practice in 2011: Paul Nulty Lighting Design. The practice works in close collaboration with architects and designers to provide creative and innovative lighting design consultancy tailored to the specific needs of each project, using light to reveal and accentuate the architectural environment.

The team has now grown to seven designers and has worked on projects ranging from the Design Museum and SuperDry (below left) to restaurants such as at The Montcalm (below right), Colbert and The Delaunay to flagship retail projects for brands that include Superdry, DKNY, Harrods, Juicy Couture, Arnotts and Burberry.

[paulnulty.co.uk](http://paulnulty.co.uk)





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