

what is light to you?

a collection of ideas about light for designers aged 0 to 14 from all over the world

milan triennale

11 - 27 february 2010

the exhibition, which opens at the milan triennale on thursday 11 february, presents **250 projects dedicated to the theme of light, created by young designers aged 0 to 14 from all over the world**, 'a collection of ideas about light, a white book ready to collect the children's suggestions - said **mario nanni, curator of the exhibition and editor of the book** that contains them - a **travelling exhibition** that brings together the thoughts, ideas, artwork, designs and poems about light from young designers'.

this is **what is light to you?**: the concept, design, craftsmanship and artistry of these works was undertaken by children, with their free, unblemished spirit expressing multiple points of view. 'it is important to stimulate their ideas and see them grow - nanni explains - to be able to see lights, lamps, poems, objects and paintings through their eyes. there are thoughts, suggestions, designs, stories, objects and dreams, because lighting ranges from the switch to the idea, from the fairy-tale to the diamond. for children light is everywhere, not just in the sun and stars but also in shadows, glow-worms, televisions and shut inside a box. they are the light'.

some years ago mario nanni launched a programme of reflection and extensive discussion on the theme of light, which is our perception of the world; in 2005 he asked some **great architects** - such as peter zumthor, michele de lucchi and claudio silvestrin - what light meant to them and has collected their words and designs for light in a white book. in 2007 he asked some **great designers** - such as claudio la viola and joan sibina - to talk about their experience of light in a series of lectures at the milan triennale. in 2009, on the grounds that lighting is not only for illumination but also to leave a mark, he asked some **children, very young designers**, what lighting meant to them and began a collection of ideas on this theme from which this exhibition and the book have taken shape.

some of the 250 projects - from italy, spain, the netherlands, the united kingdom and the united states - will be selected by mario nanni, who will award prizes both to the young designers and to their schools.

the travelling exhibition of these designs is complemented by the **europa tour of the Via...ggiando pavilion**, a workshop of ideas on wheels, established with the faenza festival of contemporary art and Viabizzuno, which encourages the public to reveal **the light they have in mind**, together with events, meetings and exhibitions, as the starting point in a journey of self-development.

the exhibition **what is light to you** continues in **frankfurt** as part of the 'luminale' biennial from 10 to 16 april and at the faenza festival of contemporary art from 21 to 23 may.

the **book** that brings together all the designs in the exhibition, with text by mario nanni, is published by **Viabizzunoeditore**.

the exhibition is open from tuesday to sunday, 11 to 27 february 2010 between 10:30 am and 8:30 pm, admission free.