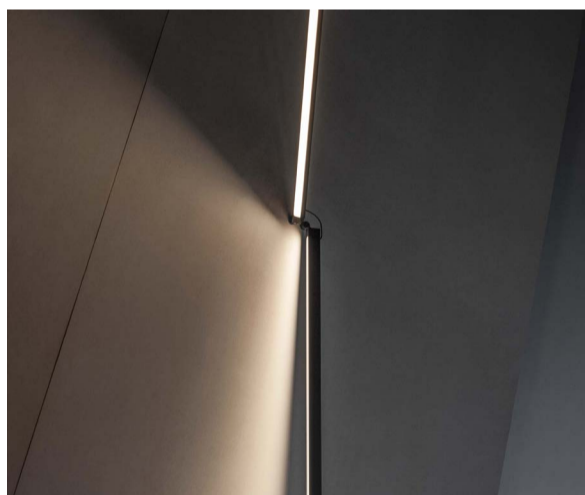
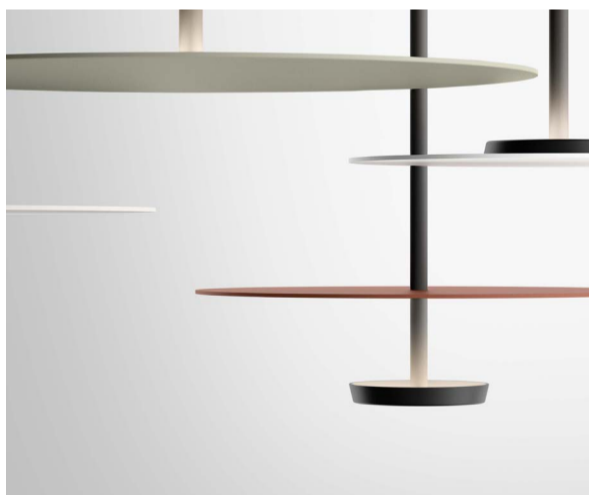


ABOUT THE PRODUCT VIBIA'S NEW COLLECTION | PROJECT IN DEPTH FNB BY RAED ABILLAMA | MEET THE DESIGNER NATHALIE DEWEZ



Geometry in the limelight

The latest vibes from Vibia

The latest collections to grace Vibia's dazzling line-up mark a return to clean, uncluttered design that puts a new spin on simple shapes.

The first of these is Flat, a series of LED powered luminaires designed by Ichiro Iwasaki with distinctive, disk-shaped diffusers. The disks create a horizontal plane of light that suffuses the space around it with a soft, soothing glow. This in turn permeates the room in a Zen atmosphere that is enhanced by the minimalistic straight lines and perfect circles. Available as floor, pendant, ceiling and table lamps, Flat comes in various heights that together create an interplay of pooling light to structure any interior space.

In the same minimalistic vein, Sticks is an expression of light in simple straight lines that can be adapted in infinitely imaginative ways. Linear

lighting becomes floating sculptures that define and shape the space they illuminate, snaking their way across walls, ceilings, corners and empty air; a veritable creative toolkit for professional and amateur interior designers alike signed Arik Levy.

Returning to Flat's love for the perfection of the circle, Top is a series of luminaires that use this timeless shape to breathe soft light into any space, making it warm and welcoming. The glowing epicenter is framed by the perfect geometry of the larger ring that reflects its light. The latter does this in varying proportions and pastel colors, forming a subtle visual rhythm that brings the surrounding architecture to life. A particularly enchanting creation of Ramos & Bassols, Top is the ideal collection for lighting that makes you feel at home.

Flat, Sticks and Top; a showcase of Vibia's design philosophy.

A towering achievement

FNB's new headquarters by Raed Abillama Architects

Standing in Beirut's museum district, First National Bank's headquarters are now housed in an environmentally conscious structure, designed by Raed Abillama Architects. Casting a distinctive silhouette in the local skyline, the new edifice features two main towers connected at each level by a glazed circulation 'bridge'.

The towers themselves are arranged over eleven principal storeys, with an FNB retail branch at the ground and mezzanine levels. The offices on the floors above are punctuated with meeting rooms, common spaces and an auditorium, offering a flexible range of functions and possibilities within the one building. The higher levels of the bank are additionally connected via a glass floating staircase that allows a visual and direct link between the banking floors.

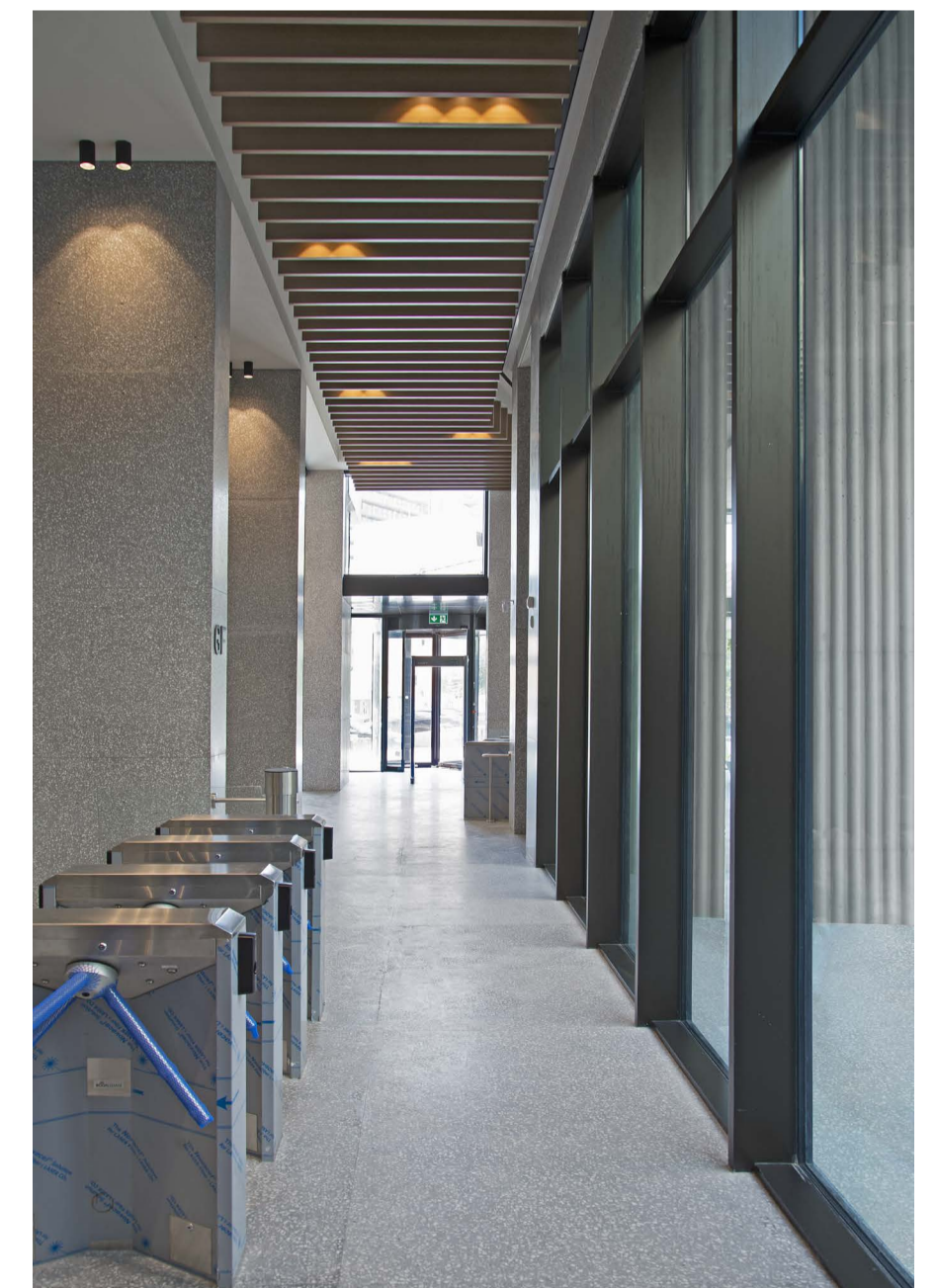
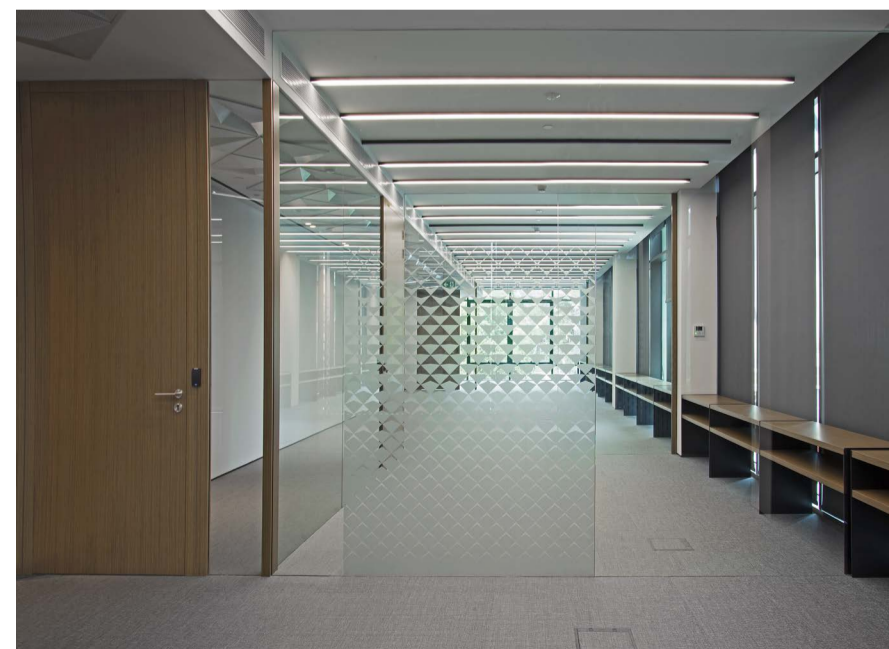
The towers were built with the position of the sun throughout the day in mind. The overall design is informed by the creation of a shading system that was developed through an iterative process of computer

modelling focusing on geometrical and formal analysis of the structure. The result is four specific types of louver modules, each with a varying angle and depth, carefully positioned according to the movement of the sun and the nature of the views from the different parts of the building.

The lighting was chosen with this unique facet in mind, creating a subtle balance of natural and artificial light that mesh seamlessly together. The fixtures merge just as seamlessly with the architecture, integrated as they are in color, texture, and shape with the sober and elegant interiors. Soft whites contrast with sharp blacks in angular patterns that run across the ceiling, mirroring the interior's almost monochrome quality. The lighting enhances the interior textures while offsetting the neutral tones, enhancing the sense of clear and open spaces that permeates the building; a sense that greets employees and visitors alike and turns a workplace into a welcoming environment. A marvel of contemporary architecture brought to life by ideal lighting conditions, First National Bank's new headquarters herald a bright future.



Pictures by Wael Khoury





Point of balance

Nathalie Dewez and Delta Light achieve harmony

Nathalie Dewez has continually affirmed her passion for sculptural shapes and superior craftsmanship through her creations. Nowhere is this better on display than in her Still lamp, which has now joined the Delta Light collection; it represents a milestone in her long journey as a designer, a journey that began almost two decades ago.

Following her graduation in 2001 from the Interior Architecture department of the Ecole Nationale des Arts Visuels de la Cambre in Brussels, Nathalie Dewez swiftly rose to prominence in lighting design. The subtle attention she brings to the duality of “matter/non-matter”, which she sees as being at the core of all lighting devices, made her a household name famous for her interplay of solid materials and light. Her iconic pieces have won much acclaim, including the 2011 edition of the prestigious Pierre Bergé Foundation design award, a year that also saw her named Belgian Designer of the Year. Her presence at numerous international shows and exhibitions has led to collaborations with a number of architecture practices as well as international producers such as Hermès (FR), Habitat (UK), Ligne Roset (FR), De Castelli (IT) & Vervloet (BE).

As a designer, Nathalie focuses on the most essential material: light. For the solid components of her light fixtures, objects, furnishings and

large-scale sculptures, she favors long-lasting materials such as metal and glass. Her trademark style is characterized by a minimalistic approach to components and a focus on ease of production. From small objects to monumental installations, from unique pieces to industrial products, her work is a delicate poetry expressed in simple, clean, uncluttered geometry. Still perfectly embodies that design philosophy: a pendant lamp whose light source is off-center from its point of suspension, it boasts a dynamic point of balance that creates a sense of visual movement. In her own words: “I always liked to play with counterweights to create movement and tension in my products. With the Still lamp, the rod of metal that creates the balance has the same diameter as the tube welcoming the cable. Screwed together, they create a perfect line and allow easy packing when separated.”

Suspended in an ever-elegant balancing act, the luminaire plays with motion, tension and balance, bringing the space around it to life with contrasting forces that are always subtly shifting. Indeed, a typical installation is always a frozen, hovering dance of orbiting lights, each moving imperceptibly along its own axis. Better still, the dance can be adapted to the inherent rhythm of any interior, offering flexibility in both lighting and design. What could be more fitting for a lamp that moves with the slightest breeze? After all, the Still lamp is never completely still.

