

# ICON

127  
AWARDS  
January 2014

## SPECIAL EDITION

We celebrate the best of 2013 with the Icon Awards. Our panel of six expert judges met to select the highlights of the past year's design, architecture, technology and culture from around the world. In this special issue we present the 60 international nominees and interview the winners of the ten categories, and our Icon of the Year

 INTERNATIONAL DESIGN,  
ARCHITECTURE & CULTURE

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## Silk Pavilion

NERI OXMAN AND THE MEDIATED MATTER GROUP AT MIT

At MIT, Neri Oxman's research group uses 3D printing to create new materials that mimic natural processes, and the Silk Pavilion is another of her experiments exploring digital and biological fabrication. The dome of 26 polygonal panels is made of a kilometre-long single, continuous silk thread laid down by a CNC machine over a metal armature. The robotic arm was programmed with an algorithm to create panels of differing density and, once its work was done, 6,500 silkworms were placed on the structure to complete it. Oxman and her team attached magnets to the silkworms' heads so that they could track their movements and subsequently use the information to programme the robotic arm.



## String Lights

MICHAEL ANASTIASIADES

The London-based Cypriot designer launched his String Lights for Flos at Milan this year. The LED in a lampshade is unremarkable until you see the metres of electrical cable to which it is attached. Anastasiades intends the light's users to loop the excess cable over hooks and create grids above the lampshade, which comes in two versions (for ambient or directional light) and with different lengths of cord. Although the lights mark out space architecturally, rather like the string sculptures of Fred Sandback, they also have a practical purpose, allowing the user to position them a long way from the nearest power point.