

VOGUE

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KATE MOSS

SEVEN
GREAT
ARTISTS'
21ST CENTURY
MUSE

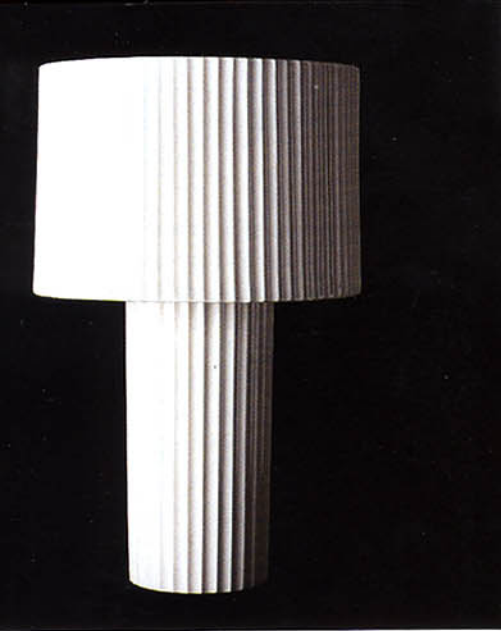
MARIO
TESTINO
SHOOTS
SUMMER'S
NEW
GLAMOUR

DOES
CHANGING
YOUR
BREASTS
CHANGE
YOUR
LIFE?

FASHION MEETS ART



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electronic panels in the private booths are used to adjust both the volume of music and the colour of the lighting. But the hippest interactive light system is at the Isometrix-designed St Martins Lane hotel. Dials built into the headboards in the hotel's bedrooms let you change the colour of your room from red to blue to green to yellow, and, if you must, white. Women, stereotypically, like reds and pinks; men go for blue. They're fun to play with, but the effect looks especially good from the outside when, at night, the hotel looks like an enormous, illuminated Mondrian – all geometric blocks of colour.

As for the humble domestic light fitting, it's all change there, too. The Conran Shop's best sellers are the £49 coloured fluorescent light tubes by EncapSulite that fly out of the shop as fast as they arrive: just rest a few on your maple floor for that impromptu art-installation look. The Jade Inc stand at London Fashion Week sported one of Michael Young's Stick lights, a moulded plastic sculpture which you prop against the wall. And Babylon in London's Fulham Road is a treasure trove of beautiful modern light fittings – most fun are Matthew Hilton's candles in bone-china holders: a sly twist on the hackneyed scented candle, as the wax burns down, the messages "light-hearted" and "lightofmylife" emerge in the china. Reclamation lighting specialist Castle Gibson reports that business has never been better, as Londoners head to the Islington shop to snap up reconditioned retro hospital and film lamps. Lucy Benzecry has a Castle Gibson Forties hospital standard lamp in the window of her Fulham shop, The West Village, and says that customers are constantly asking her where she got it from. Design House Stockholm's light bulb embedded in a block of glass, which launched last year, seems to have sparked a major new trend. Gitta Gschwendtner's plastic cube lights are insubstantial enough



Clockwise from above left, lamp, by Peter Wylly, £230, at Babylon; Manhattan's LVMH Tower; silvered pendant lamps, by Michael Anastassiades, £235 each, at Babylon; Octo stacking lights, by Tom Dixon, £99 each, at Eurolounge; the Castle Gibson hospital lamp at The West Village

to pile on top of each other, and if you were to buy enough of Eurolounge's Octo illuminated glass bricks, you could literally construct a wall of light.

As for contemporary light installation artists, they're doing nicely, thank you. Kate Maestri's illuminated etchings have sold to Sam Gold and Aimee Rabinowitz of groovy design shop Gold-Kiosk, and John Wigmore is fitting New York's finest apartments (including Gwyneth Paltrow's home) and restaurants with his ethereal light sculptures.

This flamboyant new trend shows no sign of letting up – even in the places where you'd least expect it. Virgin Atlantic is installing a new variable lighting system on its planes that will create eight different "moods", from dawn to dusk, in the sky. An invention of a theatre production company, it is, according to Virgin, an air-travel first. But British Airways is going one better. This month, the airline's engineers will begin installing a funky new lighting system on the flagship of its fleet. Come October, as Concorde flies through Mach One, a wave of cool blue light will speed from the front of the cabin to the back. Blink and you'll miss it. It's the ultimate theatrical flourish from the world's most theatrical plane. ■

