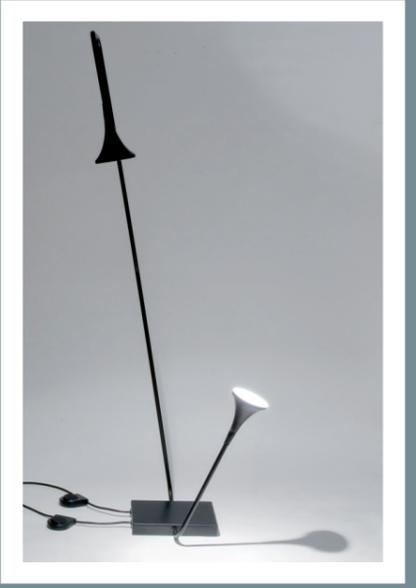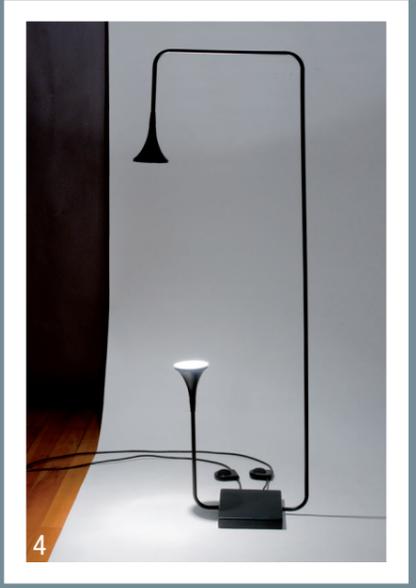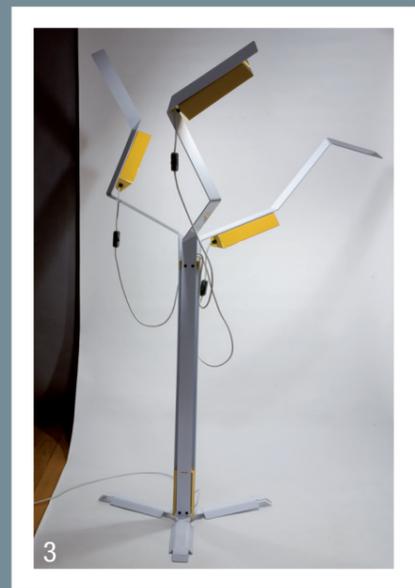1

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EVERYTHING IS
ILLUMINATED

Is a floor lamp more than just a base with pole and shade attached? We challenged design students and professionals to reinterpret this everyday object in the annual Haute Lumière Light Award competition. The result was five excellent examples of South African design talent. Judging was no easy task but the winning entry, The Peacock by Carson Smuts and Anja Zajaczkowska, combines flexibility and a sculptural quality to create a lamp that outshines the rest.

THE PRIZE

The prize is a trip to the PLDA (Professional Lighting Designers Association) light workshop in Notodden, Norway, from 26-31 January 2009. The Haute Lumière Light Award competition is hosted by VISI and Sanlam SA Fashion Week in conjunction with Paul Pamboukian Lighting Design, and made possible by Regent Lighting as well as the European Lighting and Design Centre (ELDC).

THE WINNER

THE PEACOCK
BY CARSON SMUTS AND ANJA ZAJACZKOWSKA (1)
The changing character of a peacock's tail, from a compact, slender form to an extravagant display, was the inspiration behind this design. The play of subtle colours in this bird's feathers was incorporated into the design through the play of light. Seven individual arms pivot around a central point and can either be aligned to create a slender spotlight or fanned out to create a sculptural feature light.

THE FINALISTS

MOONLIGHT BY JUANITA OOSTHUIZEN (2)
This lamp brings a dreamy quality of light to any space. It is made from two polypropylene disks fixed to a stainless-steel frame. The two sides of the shade, one frosted, the other black, allow the user to choose between the brighter light of the former to the softer light created when the black side faces forward, which allows the light to reflect off a wall.

HARVEST LIGHT BY JOE PAINE (3)
This creation can be described as industrial chic and the user is encouraged to adapt the light according to mood or changing requirements. The three individual lights can be picked like fruit from the branches of the tree-like structure and then reattached to create a variety of configurations. This innovative light combines flexibility with a playful element.

VUVUZELA TWIST BY HEATHER GOSLING (4)
Heather took her inspiration from the simple, trumpet-like vuvuzela, which she sees as an icon of South African identity. Two fluted luminaires have been positioned perpendicular to the supporting arm. These can operate individually to create the desired ambience and intensity of light.

STAANLAMP BY WALLACE HANNIBAL (5)
Wallace broke away from a design language of cultural nostalgia in search of a South African design identity informed by function. The result is Staanlamp, a floor lamp reduced to its essence but still open to interpretation by the user. A flexible lamp shade allows for a range of positions and configurations.