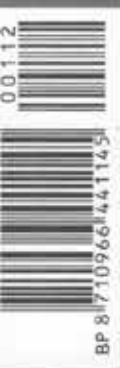


# FRAME

THE GREAT INDOORS

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## Checking In

**Tailor-made hotel concepts for millennials.** Jo Nagasaka shares his struggles and successes. Benjamin Hubert solves problems for the people. LED technology speeds light years ahead. Nendo reimagines the department store



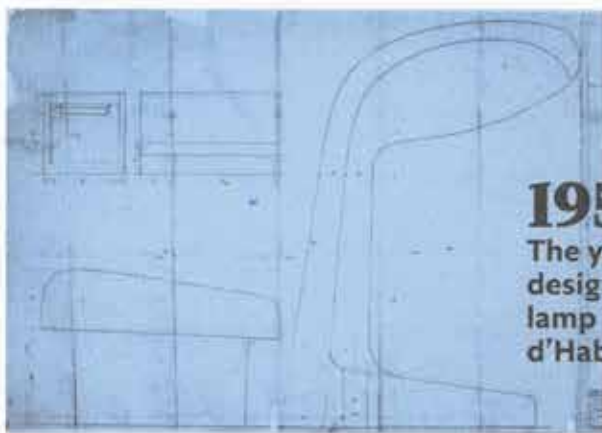
# Rock Solid

**Nemo Lighting** revives *brutalist chic* with a bold design in concrete by **Le Corbusier**.

Words **Nicola Bozzi** Illustration **Ailadi**



Le Corbusier's Borne Béton lamp was designed specifically for the walkways of Unité d'Habitation, one of the Swiss-French architect's brutalist masterpieces.



**1952**  
The year Le Corbusier designed the Borne Béton lamp for the iconic Unité d'Habitation de Marseille

**AMONG THE NOVELTIES** presented at this year's Salone del Mobile, Nemo Lighting's reissue of Le Corbusier's Borne Béton lamp made a bold statement: brutalism is back. Designed in 1952 for the walkways of the iconic Unité d'Habitation de Marseille, the new Borne Béton is a testament to the longevity of solid principles. 'The lamp was a trailblazer for future outdoor lighting. Its strong design is of unparalleled harmony,' says Federico Palazzari, CEO of Nemo Lighting. 'Le Corbusier represents the essence of modernist architectural design, to which he is what Mozart is to music, or what Shakespeare is to literature. We still keep him in mind when we design today.'

Traces of Le Corbusier's influence on modern design can be found worldwide.

Nonetheless, to Palazzari it was paramount that the reissue adhere to the Swiss-French architect's vision as closely as possible. 'We strove to identify with the original project. Edits and adjustments were almost exclusively related to lighting technology.'

The changes are, in fact, timely improvements: the new LED board increases the lamp's longevity and reduces energy consumption, making the latest edition significantly more sustainable than the 1952 design. Nemo Lighting's substantial outdoor lamp is accompanied by a smaller version for indoor use.

Other less visible alterations concern the production process. The concrete mixture has been optimized for mass production, while the moulds into which the liquid

concrete is poured are now made from silicone instead of wood. Maintaining the fluid aesthetic of the original Borne Béton was not without its challenges. Despite the problems involved, however, Nemo Lighting took the positive feedback received in Milan as an indication that the formula still works. 'In an uncertain world, rational design reflects a need to go back to solid basics,' says Palazzari.

Sharing Nemo Lighting's appreciation for brutalist design at the Salone was Flos, which also debuted a collection of concrete lamps. A design by Vincent Van Duysen, the series possesses strikingly similar features to those of Le Corbusier's Borne Béton, albeit in a more angular manner. ●  
nemolighting.com



## Le Corbusier

Born in Switzerland in 1887, Charles-Édouard Jeanneret-Gris, known internationally as Le Corbusier, was a pioneer of modern architecture and design. He is considered one of the most influential urban and architectural theorists of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. A founding member of CIAM (Congrès Internationaux d'Architecture Moderne), he developed the Radiant City model in 1933, which he later applied to the design of Unité d'Habitation, the original home of the Borne Béton outdoor lamp.



**Le Corbusier is to  
modernist architecture  
what Mozart is to music**

Nemo Lighting's concrete Borne Béton lamp – originally designed by Le Corbusier in 1952 – has been updated with LED technology.