

# METROPOLIS

ARCHITECTURE AND  
DESIGN AT ALL SCALES  
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Konstantin Grcic's  
technical textiles

10 design lessons  
from Africa

The best new lighting

Nathalie Du Pasquier  
on the power of pattern



## Design Research: Inside Today's Most Innovative Labs

# IN PRODUCTION

## Mysterious Light

Designers often find inspiration in the everyday world. So it's not surprising that Cinzia Cumini and Vicente García Jiménez, the founders of Studio García Cumini Associati, took a cue from bicycles for their Spokes suspension lamps for Foscarini. To create a lamp that plays upon shadows and produces a feeling of volume through emptiness, the designers paired a unique manufacturing process with special computer software to bend the metal rods. Then, to give the empty form its mysterious glow, they positioned the LED light source at the bottom. Here, Cumini and Jiménez explain the decisions they made to achieve a magical effect.

By Shannon Sharpe



CINZIA CUMINI (b. 1974) and VICENTE GARCÍA JIMÉNEZ (b. 1978) founded Studio García Cumini Associati in 2012. Their multidisciplinary firm works in the fields of design, products, and communications. They have partnered with companies that include Foscarini, Cesar Cucine, Fambuena, Future Concept Lab, JTI / Japan Tobacco International, Karboxx, Lunardelli, Mido, Pallucco Italia, Sofia Doors, and Tacchini.



**01** Usually the bulb in pendant lamps is located in the middle. Our focus was to move the light source to the bottom and to figure out how to bring electricity to that position of the lamp.

**02** The unique LED position creates volume through emptiness, and illuminates the inner surface of the rods. We shaped the LED in such a specific way that it is not directly visible to the eye. Next, we adjusted the right position of the suspension lamp. We used simple geometry to create the correct angle between the light source and the user's eyes.

**03** To produce an industrial series, the metal rods enter a hole in a huge machine used to bend tubes. The rods move from one side of the machine to another, and from the other side there is a cone that shapes and curves the rod, thanks to special computer software that moves the cones.

**04** We wanted two different shapes and colors because these lamps work well together in a group. This way, one can use multiple lamps to create bigger volumes to enrich and enhance wide architectural spaces.