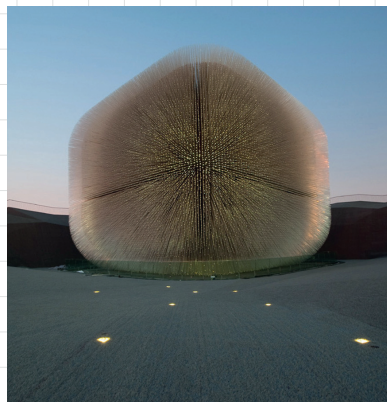


# LUST FOR LIGHT

## SHAHRIAR NASSER, BELSIZE ARCHITECTS

Architects and lighting designers choose their favourite luminaires



### SEED CATHEDRAL ▲

HEATHERWICK STUDIO

★★★★★

OK, so this might not be a luminaire but the UK Pavilion's Seed Cathedral in Shanghai is perhaps the best example of amalgamation of light – natural and artificial – form architecture. The cathedral sits in the centre of the UK Pavilion's site, 20m in height, formed from 60,000 slender, transparent fibre-optic rods. Each rod is 7.5m long and encases one or more seeds at its tip. During the day, these rods draw daylight inwards to illuminate the interior but, what I particularly love is the fact that, when night falls, light sources inside each rod allow the whole structure to glow. As the wind moves past, the building and its optic 'hairs' gently move to create a dynamic effect.

[www.heatherwick.com](http://www.heatherwick.com)

### BELLA CHANDELIER ▶

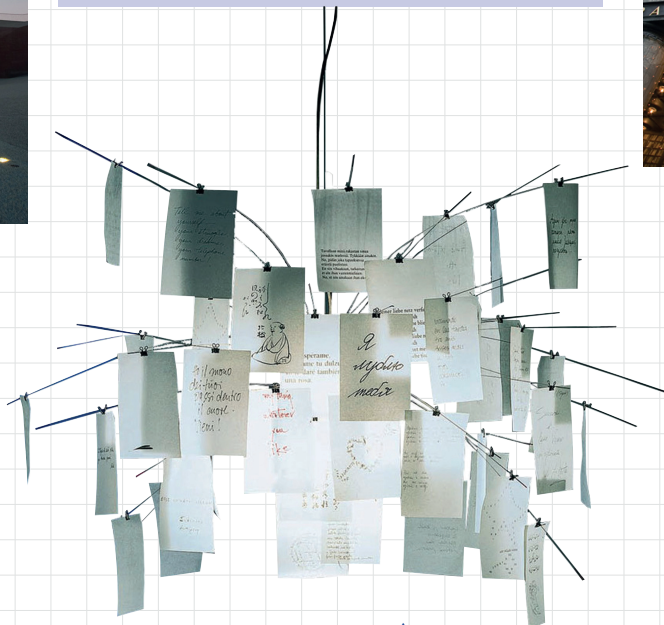
3XN

★★★★★

This is an example of pioneering work in terms of light installations. The luminaire's custom-milled aluminium cores, used as compression rods, are a mere 36mm in diameter, making them the slimmest of their kind. The light and spacious expression of the chandelier is a result of its tensegrity – a perfect equilibrium of forces is reached through a precise balance of the elements. Never has a tensegrity structure of this size been made with such a high level of integrated, optimised design.

[www.3xn.dk](http://www.3xn.dk)

**Shahriar Nasser** is director of Belsize Architects, a RIBA award-winning practice, which he founded in 1995. The firm specialises in high-end residential developments and the education and leisure sectors. This month he bends the rules slightly by opting for examples of integrated lighting and daylight design as well as his favourite luminaires.



### ZETTEL'Z 6 CHANDELIER ▲

INGO MAURER

★★★★★

This modern light with stainless-steel, wire cables comes adorned with 31 Japanese paper notecards, pre-printed with love notes in many different languages. I think the great thing about this luminaire is that the fixture also comes with 49 blank notecards so you can write your own notes. I also find the way the light reflects off the cards particularly intriguing.

[www.ingo-maurer.com](http://www.ingo-maurer.com)

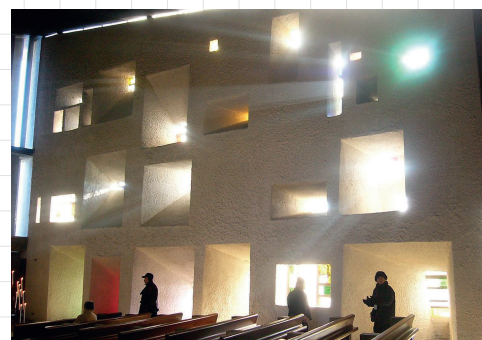


### THE HOUSE OF MICHAELERPLATZ ▲

ADOLF LOOS

★★★★★

Naked light bulbs in the portico of this Vienna office building create an extraordinary effect. Architect Adolf Loos designed bronze panels, in the centre of which the bulbs are fitted. When repeated, this simple design becomes warm and welcoming. Especially interesting is that it follows the building's concept – simple, rational, yet overwhelmingly pleasing to the eye.



### CHAPEL OF NOTRE DAME DU HAUT ▲

LE CORBUSIER

★★★★★

In France, natural lighting is on display in this building, which was created in 1955. Small, brightly-painted and apparently irregular windows punched into thick walls offer a dim but exciting light within the cool building. It is enhanced by further indirect light coming down the three light towers.

[www.chapellederonchamp.fr](http://www.chapellederonchamp.fr)