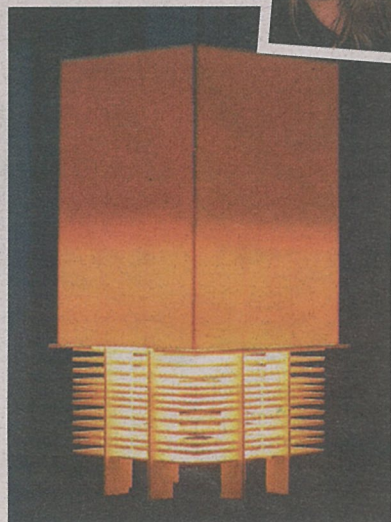


# IDEAS

**Q&A Architect and lamp designer**  
Melonie Bayl-Smith



Architect Melonie Bayl-Smith has not only recently launched her own practice, Bijl, she has also been busy designing a flat-pack lamp called Filter (pictured) that can be used as a table or floor lamp. The Filter prototype won the people's choice award in the Electrolight 2011 LightCycle competition and Melonie now has plans to manufacture it using wood and metal.

## How can lights change the look and feel of a space?

The right light fitting can control a space even when it is not turned on. This is an important consideration, because a light may only be turned on for a few hours a day. So it must exist as an attractive, complementary object as much as a source of light and ambience.

## Do you think the reputation that traditional flat-pack products have in the design industry is deserved?

Flat-pack was originally an idea borne out of ingenuity but I think its broad-based adoption and the type of design and manufacture it is commonly associated with has perhaps diminished the impact and inventive design opportunities that it offers.

## What are some of the constraints of designing a flat-pack product?

Obviously you are thinking about weight, ease of handling and assembly, robustness of parts during transit, overall durability of the design and materials for the intended use as well as size, simplicity with respect to the design of the components and keeping the number and types of components to a minimum without undermining the design integrity ... the list goes on.

## Why was it important for you to make the light work as both a table and floor lamp?

We wanted to design a light fitting that created opportunities for a tactile response to space and light, as opposed to an entirely visually controlled response – I am in a dark room, I turn the light switch on. By engaging in the assembly, customisation and manual control of the light, the user and owner of the light builds a relationship with the fitting which is important to the intended provocation of a fuller interaction with space.

As told to Chelsea Clark

 **SEKISUI HOUSE**

**FRASERS PROPERTY**

**CentralPark**  
**OPENING 2013**

**THE NEW HEART OF SYDNEY**

**LIVE**

*Apartments from \$480,000*

*60 stores opening April 2013*

**SHOP**

**PLAY**

*Chippendale Green opens December 2012*

**CENTRAL PARK DISPLAY PAVILION**  
80 Broadway, Chippendale  
Near Abercrombie St  
Open daily 10am-6pm  
**1300 857 057**  
[CENTRALPARKSYDNEY.COM](http://CENTRALPARKSYDNEY.COM)



SCAN THIS CODE TO WATCH  
CENTRAL PARK COME TO LIFE