

SIDE GALLERY

ANGELO LELII



Ceiling lamp

Manufactured by Arredoluce
Italy, 1950s
Painted metal, Bronze, Frosted glass

Measurements

74,9 x 50,2 x 92,7h cm
29,5 x 19,8 x 36,5h in

Provenance

Private collection

Literature

Gio Ponti. The Complete Work 1923–1978, Lisa Licitra
Ponti, Thames & Hudson, 1990 (for context on Arredoluce collaborations)
Phillips New York, Design Evening Sale, Lot 94, 28 April
2016

About

Arredoluce was founded in 1947, in Monza, by Angelo Lelii. Over the following decades, the company's collaborators included renowned designers such as Giò Ponti, Ettore Sottsass, Pier Giacomo, and Achille Castiglioni. The most well-known designs of Angelo Lelii are the Triennale floor lamp model 12128 (1947) and the Cobra table lamp (1964), which became famous for its unique shape and for the low voltage used by incorporating the transformer in its base. His other iconic lights are the Tris lamp (1946), the Eye floor light (1950), the Stella ceiling light (1950), and the President table lamp (1970).

Thanks to Angelo Lelii's unique approach to lighting design, Arredoluce quickly built a reputation for creating premium quality lights based on clean, simple, and functional designs. And that is also the reason why the lamps from Lelii are so wanted amongst collectors and mid-century design lovers.

A catalogue raisonné of his designs was published in Italy by Silvana Editoriale, "Arredoluce 1943 – 1987 catalogue raisonné".

Biography

Angelo Lelii (February 6, 1915–1979). Born Paolo Angelo Lelii in Ancona, Angelo Lelii moved with his family to Milan, where he worked and married Monza-born Rosa Bianca Bussetti. The couple moved to Monza after marriage, and although the biographical information available is scarce, we know that he began manufacturing lamps in his Monza house in 1943 and that in 1946 he advertised his Tris lamp at the Domus magazine.

It was in 1947 that he founded Arredoluce, a premier manufacturer of furniture and lighting, in Monza. During the same year, at the VIII Triennale di Milano, he exhibited the lamp 12128, which became known as the Triennale floor lamp.

He became an influential designer in postwar Italy, especially in the field of modern lighting design. During the 1950s, Arredoluce started to collaborate with such designers as Franco Albini, Achille Castiglioni, Gio Ponti, Ettore Sottsass, and Nanda Vigo and also began to experiment with halogen light bulbs for its designs. Out of this experimentation, Lelii increased the use of transformers for his designs and created the recognizable floor switch used in most of Arredoluce's floor lamps.

Angelo Lelii's lamps and lighting objects stand out for their extremely simple designs that strive for minimal complexity and for their strong sense of unadorned sensitivity. Thanks to Angelo Lelii's unique approach to lighting design, Arredoluce quickly built a reputation for creating premium quality lights based on clean, simple, and functional designs.