

DESIGN 126



Creative contemporary design, in modern lighting, has come a long way since the 'Lava' lamps of the 70's! Now, it's possible to see the latest developments in diamagnetic technology being used, to develop floating or 'levitating' lamps.

HOVER LAMP

Text: Marie Malone Photos: Courtesy of Crealev

The basic design is a round, slim, flat base of 240mm. diameter, with a smaller levitating 'spaceship' style disc, floating about 30-40mm. above the base. Its power consumption is 0.5-8W. The standard home lamp has also been adapted, so that the lampshade part floats freely, and without obstructions. When you first look at the lamps, it's amazing how the top part stays up! You can press the top base down with your hand, but it bounces back into position immediately – similar to the Meissner Effect. It's the kind of lamp that you would imagine being situated in 'Star Trek' bedroom quarters! However, early in 2008, this futuristic and creative lighting design will be developed, for the consumer market, on a small scale. Still in the developmental stages, Crealev (www.crealev.com), a new High-Tec Dutch company, based in Eindhoven, Netherlands, will be expanding their proprietary technological possibilities, and looking to break out into the commercial market with these, and larger scale designs. Although all the products may look very different on the outside, they are all still based on the same technology, which challenges the law of gravity. Ger Jansen, the inventor of the Crealev technology, has developed a "new levitation concept which is able to produce a very high levitation height, combined with a low power dissipation and excellent stability". Angela Jansen, who is the main designer of the prototypes, has now developed a whole series of LOS! floating lamps, for home furnishing. Her original designs were unveiled during 'Dutch Design Week' in the Netherlands, in last year. She's even developed a floating Buddha ornament. With possibilities of floating seats in the future, you may be sitting on something entirely different the next time you visit the doctor's, or wait at the train station!