



Achille Castiglioni 1918 - 2002

Skandium hosting Flos - Design Achille Castiglioni
An in-store installation of nine modernist design classics

Castiglioni was born in Milan in 1910 and graduated with a degree in architecture in 1944. As early as 1940 he dedicated himself to testing industrial production with brothers Livio and Pier Giacomo. After graduating, he began researching into shapes, techniques and new materials, aimed at developing an integral design process. During the course of his long career Castiglioni designed numerous objects, as well as temporary architecture for numerous art exhibitions, trade fairs, and showrooms. Castiglioni viewed the world as a wonderful catalogue of objects that can provide a designer with ideas and guidance, and his own work was often inspired by everyday things. With his functional and purist yet playful objects, Castiglioni has shown that form and function, while certainly the main ingredients for successful design, cannot be a designer's only concerns. He has thus contributed invaluable to updating modernist design to contemporary modern.

Flos was founded in 1962 in Merano, Italy by Dino Gavina and Cesare Cassina. To develop new lighting concepts, they enlisted the aid of Achille Castiglioni, Pier Giacomo Castiglioni and Tobia Scarpa. In 1964 Sergio Gandini joined the company, and the headquarters were moved to a new site near Brescia. The first Flos retail store, designed by the Castiglioni brothers, opened in Milan in 1968. Pino Tovaglia designed the logo, and Max Huber the catalogues. In 1974 Flos purchased Arteluce, a historical brand founded in 1939 by Gino Sarfatti, and opened a new factory in Bovezzo, just outside the city of Brescia. The collaboration with Achille Castiglioni continued through the 1980s, and in 1992 he introduced the "family of products" concept to the market with the Brera series. At the same time, Flos continued to scout for emerging talent at an international level. In 1988 the Company started collaborating with Philippe Starck. Other talented designers followed: Jasper Morrison, Konstatin Grcic, Marc Newson, Antonio Citterio, Marcello Ziliani, Marcel Wanders, Piero Lissoni, Rodolfo Dordoni, Knud Holscher, and Patricia Urquiola. During the 1990s the company launched a division focused on commercial projects. In 2005 Flos further established its presence in this sector with the creation of Flos Architectural Lighting, combining cutting-edge engineering with suggestive lighting design.

Showing at Skandium Brompton Road
8th March – 6th April 2010

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Showing at Skandium Marylebone High Street
8th April – 6th May 2010

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