



Fascination

Fascination. That is the most striking feeling when discovering Enzo Catellani's exceptional lighting: fascination for the products, and more importantly for the light and atmospheres they create.

Jean-Marie Hubert, author photos, and Nava Rapacchietta

The new genius of the art of light takes possession of the spaces he enters with strength and elegance, creating what is commonly called a kind of magic. His lighting fixtures are unique works of art, combining craftsmanship with the most advanced technologies, all with a distinct touch of Italian elegance.

The name of his already thirty-year-old company, Catellani & Smith, might suggest a partner, presumably London-based, or at least British. Not so: it's actually Enzo Catellani's horse, Logan Smith. A brand name conceived so that attention would not focus solely on the creator, a subtle illustration of his humility and his ability to let his works speak. Today, Enzo is supported in the company by his

children, Giulia and Tobia. Over three decades, the company has gained worldwide acclaim, considered in architecture and design circles as the new pope of light. Few other companies or artisans have explored this new realm of lighting, blending high technology with art. Similarly, the brilliant Munich-born designer Ingo Maurer left his mark in the 1960s with innovative, original, and timeless creations. He was the pope of contemporary lighting at the time, and I had the chance to meet him in New York in April 2018, in his gallery, a year before his passing.

Now comes a new creative genius from the beautiful city of Bergamo: Enzo Catellani. My journey through Italy allowed me to discover



Often lights are intrusive, imposing themselves by sheer lumens rather than creating a world drawn from our dreams: a discreetly haptic, welcoming, and warm atmosphere.

Above: Uomo della Luce XXL.

Right: Giulia, Tobia, and Enzo Catellani. Logan Smith is never far.

the famous Uomo della Luce XXL in various cities, on the shores of Italy's great lakes, and in private residences, demonstrating how he illuminates and inhabits spaces.

When light and lighting fixtures become art in the hands of a genius designer who masters light, objects, and the spaces he transforms, magic happens instantly. One is captivated by the presence of his installations. Their strong personality and artistic dimension define and enhance a space.

From his Bergamo headquarters to Milan, where the magnificent Salvioni showroom displays a selection of his works across three floors, welcome to a journey exploring his universes.





Gold Moon Chandelier



Bellatrix

each piece is inherently unique in both design and production.

With every new creation, Enzo Catellani tells a story. For instance, Bellatrix shines like the star in Orion's constellation. This majestic 120 cm wall lamp has an irregular surface covered by hand with gold leaf. The interaction of light with the gilded surface and the indirect lighting creates an evocative atmosphere.



For You

Ensō is inspired by Japanese calligraphy (shodō), recreating the ambiance of the Land of the Rising Sun. Its intense blue brushing, fading toward the open circle, symbolizes a promise of evolution. Available as a wall lamp or table lamp.

For You was created to be gifted. Inspired by the delicacy of a flower, its rice paper diffuser and amber LED emit warm, soothing light. Entirely handmade, it combines craftsmanship with the technology necessary for its lightness and delicacy.

PostKrisi Chandelier is a monumental suspension combining sculptural elegance with a sense of movement. Contemporary spirit meets disruptive technology. The number of spheres is adapted to the volume of the space, and it is made to order.

Gold Moon Chandelier reinterprets the traditional chandelier, transforming it into an impressive cascade of suspended lights. It can be made in different versions, with varied bases, finishes, and number of elements. Composed of irregular discs supported by thin cables of different lengths, holding delicate copper loops with small LED lamps. The hand-gilded surfaces play with the emitted light, creating a unique atmosphere.

Malagolina, from the PostKrisi collection, features light interacting with color and form, playing with transparency and contrast. Its



Ensō

The magic created by his lighting works in two ways: first, as singular lighting that enhances spaces and objects, indoors and outdoors. But more importantly, the fixtures themselves are unique works of art. So singular and present that they appropriate the space, becoming its focal point. A simple headboard crowned by a Bellatrix fixture transforms the bedroom, giving it a new dimension. Similarly, a bathroom is elevated by one of these famous “wire” creations. Nothing else is visible.

Installing the Gold Moon Chandelier in your living room ensures it becomes the centerpiece of your interior. Catellani & Smith lights favor minimal spaces, using walls to create striking shadow-and-light effects. Despite their international success, each piece is handmade by the Master's collaborators. Enzo says: “Beauty is subjective; perfection is not.” That is why each fixture is hand-crafted, giving artisans all the time needed to perfect every piece. This is far from the pace imposed by contemporary industry.

THE WORKSHOPS IN BERGAMO SET THE TONE

It is possible to customize each object to the home it will illuminate. On this principle, the cost of a work becomes relative, as



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PostKrisi



Malagolina



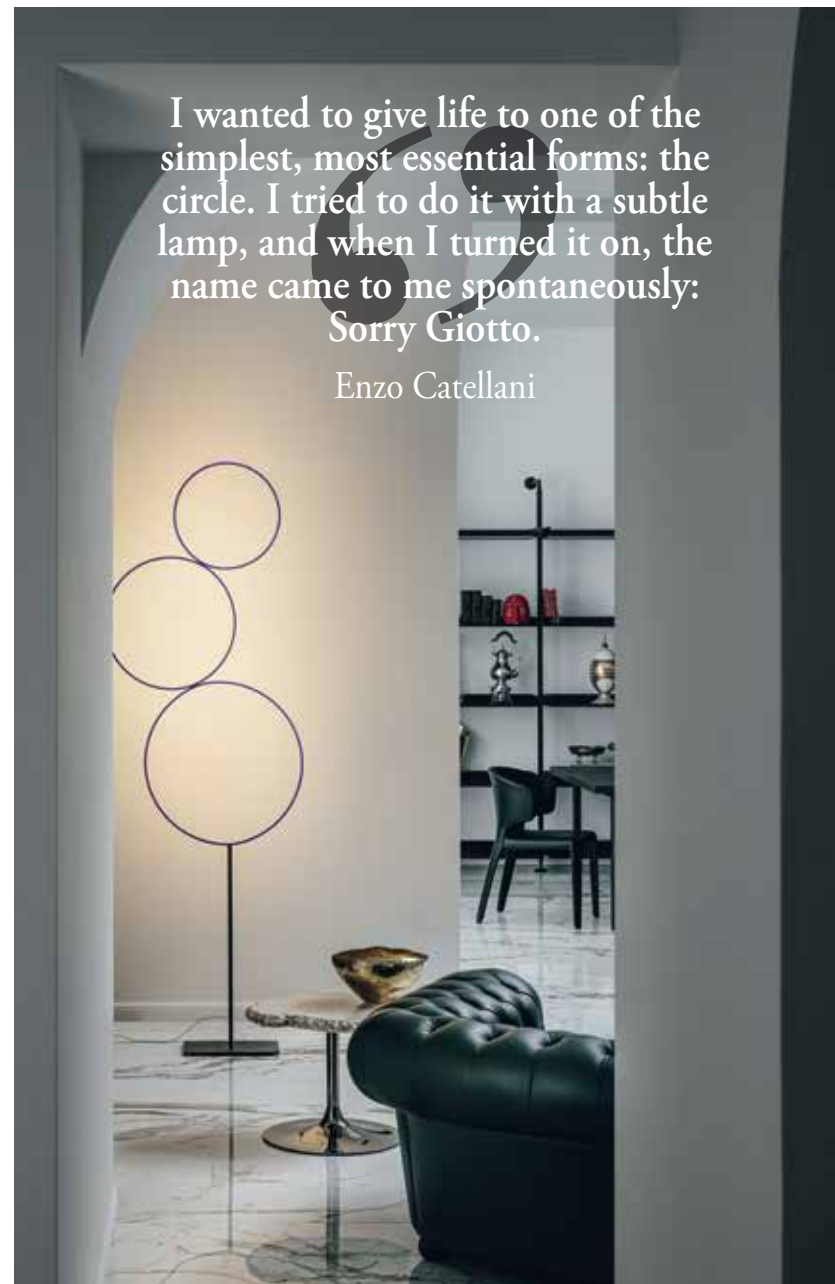
Pöta

shape captures light and casts intriguing shadows on the wall, enhanced by the frayed texture of the diffusers contrasted with elegant metal structures.

Nuvola, the “wire cloud” from the Fil di Ferro series, is an aluminum wire lamp, braided and illuminated internally by tiny bulbs. Designed and created by Enzo Catellani, it is his favorite piece. Born nearly twenty years ago for a special commission, it remained in his studio and enchanted everyone who saw it lit. Later commercialized, it became the most iconic Catellani & Smith design.

This journey into the heart of light also pays tribute to those who, through innovation and creativity, elevate light to a major art form. My trip included Padua, to revisit Giotto’s 14th-century frescoes in the Scrovegni Chapel, enhanced by another Italian light designer, I Guzzini. Another Italian designer, Zafferano, popularized small lamps adorning tables in chic Italian restaurants: the Poldina.

Let’s not forget French designers like Milan Bijelic, creator of Fosfens and LED specialist, whose motto “Light can be art” aligns with this approach (Dandy n°75). Also Henri Bursztyn, architect and specialist in creating volumes with light, and Maiori (Dandy n°98), outdoor lighting expert from the French Basque country. All push the boundaries of technology to make light a true art, like Ingo Maurer and Enzo Catellani. □



I wanted to give life to one of the simplest, most essential forms: the circle. I tried to do it with a subtle lamp, and when I turned it on, the name came to me spontaneously: Sorry Giotto.

Enzo Catellani

Discover the magical universe of Catellani & Smith:
www.catellanismith.com/fr