



FINALIST

NAT CHESHIRE

'Oud' lamp

In devising his functional object of beauty, Nat Cheshire looked to the past. In 1928, the Dutch architect J.P.P. Oud produced a piano lamp that played cylinder, rectangular prism and sphere against each other. At the same time, Mies van der Rohe produced a pavilion in Barcelona from free, slippery planes of marble and metal. Eighty years later, OMA designed a Beijing tower that lurches through space until arriving again at its beginning. Believing these projects to be the most extraordinary of their kind, Nat deemed a lamp the ideal way to further explore the potential of imbalance.

Oud provided a clear starting point. "His piano lamp was the most exciting I knew," says Nat, 31. "That gave us [Auckland's Cheshire Architects] the

sphere and the cantilever. Mies pointed the way forward, and offered material opulence within formal fluidity. OMA radicalised the direction. Our project consolidated these directions, and hunted for a way to extend their work."

Nat spent weeks making dozens of prototype models, searching for the one with the most tension – the mutant among them. "We pursued models that exhibited simultaneous 'dumbness' and complexity, chasing them to a fraught balance," he says. The finished product is made of waxed brass, rosso levanto marble and crimson velvet, with a linear LED lamp.

The 'Oud' lamp is available from resident.co.nz.

