

LUCEPLAN FOR AZURE

THE SPEED OF SOUND

A pioneer in acoustical lighting fixtures, Luceplan has expanded the world of commercial lighting with high design and innovative sound absorption



LUCEPLAN FOR AZURE

French architect Odile Decq had already designed two lighting fixtures for Italian lighting manufacturer Luceplan when she approached the company with an innovative concept for a product that would do more than just illuminate.

“I was designing an office building and had the need to care about both acoustics and lighting. I searched products and didn’t find anything nice combining the two,” Decq says. “This is how the idea came of combining both constraints in one device.”

Decq’s design challenge inspired a collaboration with Luceplan on the company’s first foray into acoustical lighting. In 2012, Pétale, a softly sculpted pendant that Decq describes as a “flying object,” made its debut.

Luceplan’s line of acoustical lighting now includes two more fixtures, both imagined by Italian architect and designer Monica Armani: Silenzio, a wool-wrapped pendant, and Diade, an upholstered linear LED lamp for workspaces. The luminaires established Luceplan as a leader in acoustical lighting solutions and have found widespread use in international hospitality and workplace settings, including the Ottawa offices of Shopify, the Rome location of Eataly, and Skyway Monte Bianco, the facilities of the world-famous cable car ride in the Alps, in Courmayeur, Italy.

The launch of the fixtures has been well-timed with the rise of open office layouts, whose lack of partitioned spaces, while excellent for collaboration, often results in background noise levels that are distracting and uncomfortable. “Office spaces are more frequently large open spaces with exposed ceilings,” says Giuseppe Butti, CEO of Luceplan North America. “This kind of environment is very pleasant to view, but creates huge acoustical challenges.” Patrizia Vicenzi, Business Leader of Luceplan, adds “Particularly in open-plan offices, acoustic pollution caused by excessive propagation of noises and sounds runs the risk of having a negative impact on the psychophysical balance of human beings.”

The fixtures work by both absorbing sound and preventing overlap of voices and other noises. This effect is thanks to the lamps’ materials and structure, which keep the sound waves bouncing inside the fixtures, rather than reverberating throughout the space. Conversations happening below have a high degree of vocal clarity and acoustical comfort. With their attractive form and variety of dimensions and colourways available, the fixtures strike a “balance between innovation, function and aesthetics,” says Armani.

For architects and designers, the fixtures are a “three-in-one solution for their challenges,” Butti says: “a lighting fixture that delivers very good general lighting for the space, a high-performance acoustical panel and a decorative element that characterizes the space.”



↑ **PÉTALE** The organic form of Luceplan’s first acoustical lighting fixture, designed by architect Odile Decq, recalls the shape and softness of a flower petal, enhanced by the white upholstery of its sound-absorbent panel. New in 2017, Pétale RGB-DMX adds three new formats to the collection, each encircled with an LED strip that can be realized in colourful hues or in tunable white.



↓ **SILENZIO** Designer and architect Monica Armani incorporated a 90 per cent wool fabric, customizable in several colourways, to imbue the Silenzio suspension lamp with a sense of warmth. Its drum-like shape, which is available in three different diameters, is achieved with a polyester padding that provides excellent sound absorption.



← **DIADE** Armani followed Silenzio with Diade, an upholstered linear LED lamp that both absorbs sound and serves as an architectural feature to define spaces. The fixture’s wings can be positioned horizontally, to delineate two workspaces, for instance, or vertically, to create a more dramatic partition between desks or tables.

Spotlight on Shopify

When it came time to create a new office for 800 employees in downtown Ottawa, Canadian e-commerce company Shopify tapped Linebox Studio, a firm with offices in Ottawa and Toronto, to devise a workplace that prioritized collaboration and productivity.

Acoustical comfort often suffers in open layouts like Shopify’s, so to ensure an environment that suited brainstorming, desk work and important meetings,

Linebox used Luceplan Pétale and Silenzio fixtures in various meeting rooms and gathering places throughout the office.

“We were looking for versatile, acoustical lighting solutions that could reduce sound and look great while doing it,” says Amanda Ferguson, an intern architect at Linebox. “Acoustical light fixtures add to the office-scape by visually defining space in a new and interesting way.

“They can be used to create a rhythm while helping mitigate echo and sound transfer throughout a workspace. By combining lighting with acoustic control, you are allowing your investment to go above and beyond and address other needs within the space.”

