

FLOS with Sarfatti



Arteluce - Flos Archive

Le Sfere di Gino Sarfatti

Throughout his life, the sky served as a muse for the renowned Italian lighting master Gino Sarfatti. He was fascinated by the perfect light emitted by the Moon, and one of Gino Sarfatti's most brilliant designs is inspired by the natural poetry of the luminous satellite.

The Le Sfere collection has not been in production since the 1970s, and it is with immense joy that Astep can now reintroduce this remarkable luminaire system with the single spheres and iconic chandeliers designed by Gino Sarfatti.

A poetic luminaire collection inspired by the Moon

In 1959, Le Sfere was launched in a solar system of its own, revolving around a single luminous sphere. Le Sfere features a simple, yet elegant principle in which a blown opaline glass sphere is held in place by a painted aluminium ring. A refined embrace that lends the luminaire a graphic expression and brings forth its distinctive aesthetic.

The Le Sfere collection is the largest product family by Gino Sarfatti with models that have developed over time, from the first single sphere, **Model 237**, to the iconic twenty-four-sphere chandelier, **Model 2109**. All created from the same fundamental principle that still resonates today with its beautiful interpretation and perfection of a luminous sphere.

To Gino Sarfatti, Le Sfere was a multifaceted, open-minded luminaire system, suitable for illuminating all kinds of spaces with its ambient moonlight, from a modest corridor to exclusive private and commercial settings.

Gino Sarfatti gradually expanded the collection to fit larger commissioned projects. Among them is the famous Teatro Regio in Turin, Italy, where Le Sfere can still be seen in a variety of compositions, including cascades and columns, that emphasise the genius and beauty of the system.

Part of the Flos with Sarfatti collection

Le Sfere di Gino Sarfatti is the latest addition to the collection Flos with Sarfatti – a tribute to the great Italian master of light created in collaboration between the lighting companies **Astep & Flos**.

'My grandfather's company, Arteluce, was renowned for artisanal lighting created by the most influential designers of our times. Now Flos and I have joined forces in reviving timeless Gino Sarfatti masterpieces that are more relevant and essential than ever.'

– Alessandro Sarfatti, founder of Astep

For further information about Le Sfere di Gino Sarfatti, please contact:

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#LeSfere
#GinoSarfatti
#FloswithSarfatti
#Astep

LE SFERE DI GINO SARFATTI

Technical specifications

Typology	<p>Chandelier</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Model 2109/16/14 - 16 Opaline Spheres Ø 950 mm, Ø Diff. 140 mm • Model 2109/16/20 - 16 Opaline Spheres Ø 1400 mm, Ø Diff. 200 mm • Model 2109/24/16 - 24 Opaline Spheres Ø 1340 mm, Ø Diff. 140 mm <p>Wall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Model 237/1 - 1 Opaline Sphere H 150 mm, L 203 mm, W 140 mm, Ø Diff. 140 mm • Model 237/2 - 2 Opaline Spheres H 150 mm, L 230 mm, W 310 mm, Ø Diff. 140 mm • Model 238/1 - 1 Opaline Sphere H 210 mm, L 300 mm, W 200 mm, Ø Diff. 200 mm • Model 238/2 - 2 Opaline Spheres H 210 mm, L 320 mm, W 450 mm, Ø Diff. 200 mm
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Environment	Indoor
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Materials	Steel structure and blown opal glass diffuser
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Finish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Champagne • Black
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Light Source	<p>Chandelier</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Model 2109/16/14 - 14 x E14 Max 40W • Model 2109/16/20 - 20 x E27 Max 60W • Model 2109/24/14 - 24 x E14 Max 40W <p>Wall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Model 237/1 - 1 x E14 Max 40W • Model 237/2 - 2 x E14 Max 40W • Model 238/1 - 1 x E27 Max 60W • Model 238/2 - 2 x E27 Max 60W
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Price range	Please contact press@astep.design for price enquiries
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Gino Sarfatti

In 1939, Gino Sarfatti founded Arteluce and brought lighting into the 20th century with a resounding combination of innovative ideas and ground-breaking design. For many years, Arteluce was a creative meeting place for talented Italian architects, among them Vittoriano Viganò, who became a lifelong friend. Gino Sarfatti and Arteluce received numerous awards, including the Compasso d'Oro (1954 and 1955) and the Honorary Diploma of the Milan Triennale.

Originally, Gino Sarfatti studied to become an aeronautical engineer. Family circumstances compelled him to relocate to Milan, where an encounter with lighting design – an engineering project to transform a glass vase into a lamp – not only shaped the path of his own life but also turned out to have an immense influence on the evolution of Italian design practice. Gino Sarfatti is remembered as a visionary entrepreneur and pioneer of Italian lighting design.

Throughout his career, Gino Sarfatti was committed to exploring new materials, product typologies and lighting sources as well as artisanal techniques, leading to the creation of more than 600 luminaires in his name. His hybrid talent as a designer and engineer enabled him to create sophisticated state-of-the-art lighting with regard to both function and aesthetics. The extraordinary 'Model 2097' suspension luminaire from 1958 is one of his most celebrated designs.

In late 1973, Gino Sarfatti decided to sell Arteluce to Flos and retired to his house on Lake Como where he passed away in 1985. His design and significance, however, remain vibrant, upheld by design connoisseurs, private collectors and museums worldwide and now also revived by his grandson Alessandro Sarfatti and Flos in the new capsule collection 'Flos with Sarfatti'.



Le Sfere di Gino Sarfatti

Press Release 2018

Astep founder Alessandro Sarfatti

We must work in all directions and in each one find a small amount of innovation.' My father used to say this, and his approach has proven to be true. As long as we continue moving towards something that is more meaningful, more substantial, more relevant, every move is valuable and deserves the same consideration and respect.

That is the very core of Astep. To me, the essence of evolution is to capture the best of what has been and let it evolve into the heart of what is to come. Thus, Astep continues on the path devised by two great entrepreneurs, my father, Riccardo Sarfatti, and my grandfather Gino Sarfatti.

A family affair

Like all good Italian tales, mine is also a family affair and began a long time ago. In 1939, my grandfather Gino Sarfatti founded Arteluce, a company that pioneered the use of design in the lighting business.

In 1978, my father Riccardo went a step further. When founding Luceplan together with my mother, Sandra Severi, and architect Paolo Rizzatto, he moved from an artisanal to a more industrial approach and devised a new business model that became synonymous with 'Made in Italy' quality and innovation: working with highly specialized, talented and hand-picked industrial craftsmen.

Timeless Inventions

Both Arteluce and Luceplan created one icon after another, luminaires of timeless beauty that embody the meaning of evolution.

At Astep, we present a careful selection of works created by the great minds of the past in combination with new inventions by the great minds of the present. A collection of objects, fluid in time, that carry on the heritage and legacy of my family.

For further information about Le Sfere di Gino Sarfatti, please contact:

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Q&A with Alessandro Sarfatti

1.

Candela, your first product presented at the Milan design week 2016, generates its own electricity through the thermoelectric effect. Could you explain the concept of this conversion of heat into electricity?

When you manage to create a difference in temperature between two surfaces, this can generate a small amount of electricity. This is known as the Seebeck effect.

2.

This thermoelectric effect is not a new invention. Thomas Seebeck discovered the effect nearly 200 years ago. Why it was never used in the illumination industry before?

It is only recently that you can make a good amount of light with a very low quantity of electricity, and I guess the fact that nobody had thought of this before Francisco Gomez Paz. The LED is a very efficient light source that can now give a good quantity of light even with a low amount of electricity. It is in the last 15 years that LED's have been used in the lighting business.

3.

Astep brings together the most innovative technologies with contemporary design. On the other side you look back to the past, reintroducing designs by your Grandfather Gino Sarfatti and Vittoriano Viganò. What is more important to you: past and roots or future and progress?

I'd say the most important is accessible technologies. Today, thanks to the internet, we can easily have access to technologies that 10 to 15 years ago could only be found in big corporations. In all businesses the biggest factor for innovation is technology. The attitude of my grandfather first and my father after, was to find new technologies outside the lighting business and use them to create the new. For instance the use of Methacrylate in late 40's early 50's was quite pioneering. Astep identifies in the new accessible and digital technologies the way to create the New. What enables you to pursue the

future is the knowledge of the past. This is what we mean with Evolution. They are both important because they are strictly connected.

4.

Why did you choose „Astep“ as company name?

My father used to say „We have to work in all directions, and in each one find a small amount of innovation“. It is the quest for that small step forward that drives me.

The reason why I do what I do and I go to work everyday is because I have the aim to create something that will represent a small step forward in the evolution of human kind. This is my attitude at least...

5.

Gino Sarfatti designed more than 600 light fixtures, how do you select which of his designs are relevant to reintroduce to the market today?

I grew up with many of my grandfather's products, not only in my own home but also when moving around in Milan, and especially one product family kept reemerging: the spheres. I was always intrigued by its simplicity and timelessness. With Le Sfere my grandfather created an archetypal system, which can be adapted to a large range of projects - the Teatro Regio in Turin is a great example of this. Key to me is: functional, timeless and innovation - and Le Sfere embodies all these values.

6.

Another designer in your portfolio is Vittoriano Viganò. Why did you choose to reintroduce his lamps?

I knew Vittoriano. We spent together some summers in Sardinia. I especially remember watching the F1 Grand Prix with him. He was a friend. And he also worked both with my grandfather and with my father and he was Art Director of Arteluce for some years and with Luceplan he developed the outdoor lamps still present today in Piazza Sempione in Milan. I like to start my new adventure with people that are really close to me and to my history.

The Flos with Sarfatti collaboration

1st June 2017 – **FLOS** and **Alessandro Sarfatti** announced that from this date onward the company Astep –founded by the latter- will be distributing under FLOS licence the lighting products designed by the great Italian Master Gino Sarfatti, who had sold the Arteluce brand and collection to Flos in 1973.

With great respect for Gino Sarfatti's cultural heritage, and sharing a mission of design innovation, they will together continue to explore the wide Arteluce collection in order to selectively re-issue a selection of luminaires of most contemporary design. These, in addition to the existing re-issued models, will form the new prestigious collection Flos with Sarfatti.

The Flos with Sarfatti collection is a tribute to Gino Sarfatti, the leading Italian master of lighting design, who had designed over 600 fixtures between 1939 and 1973. With a constant dedication to research and innovation, he introduced new typologies, functions and light sources –from the fluorescent tubes to the first halogens. Many of his designs still appear remarkably contemporary in terms of form, aesthetics, and the relationship they establish with the observer.

Piero Gandini, CEO of FLOS, commented: *"Innovative design and respect of our cultural heritage have always been the essence of the mission of Flos. After acquiring Arteluce and its collection from Gino Sarfatti in 1973, the idea of re-editing with continuity a selection of his models together with his grandson Alessandro is a wonderful opportunity to promote the genius of one of the greatest talents in Italian and international design and lighting history."*

Alessandro Sarfatti, founder of Astep, continued: *"My grandfather's company, Arteluce, was renowned for artisanal lighting by the most influential designers of our times. Now, Flos and I have joined forces in reviving timeless Gino Sarfatti masterpieces that are more relevant and essential than ever."*

**For further information about The Flos with collection,
please contact:**

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