

"Lighting is designed not only to light our surroundings, but also to make us happy." Jacques Vidal

VERRE LUMIERE

In 1968, French lighting firm Verre Lumiere was created on the initiative of Max Ingrand, the famous French master glass worker and decorator. The company was the result of a partnership between the glass company Saint Gobain and lighting firm Mazda.

Jacques Vidal led the company in its commercial direction; Ben Swildens served as artistic director and Sabine Charoy head of the creative studio. Based in Puteaux, the company employed a workshop of forty craftsmen who were involved at every stage of production.

Verre Lumiere distinguished itself with its exceptional technical skill and highly efficient prototyping of new models. In 1968, it was one of the first companies to use halogen bulbs in lighting.

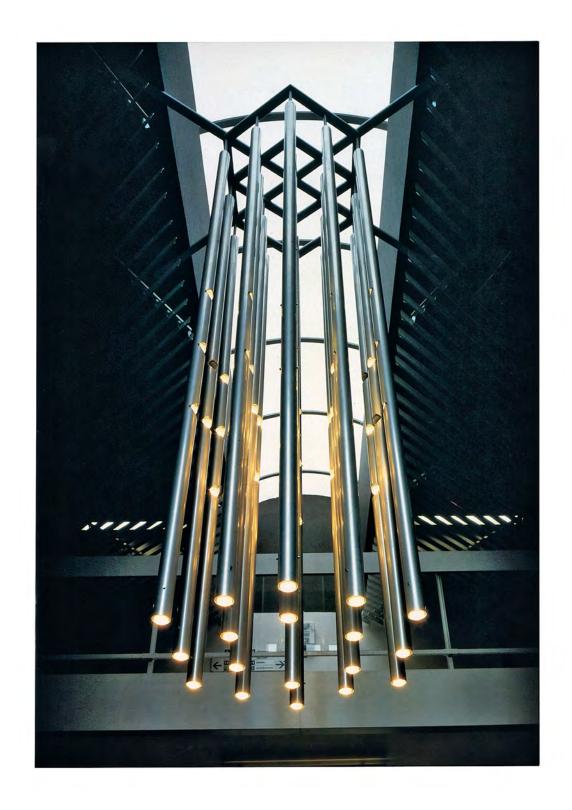
The firm also distinguished itself creatively, through numerous public and commercial commissions, working with an important network of architects and interior designers. Several of the most iconic lamps of the 1970s have been created from these commissions. Highlights include Pierre Paulin's *Élysée* lamps, designed in 1972 for George Pompidou's private apartment in the Palais de l'Élysée; and the *Brasilia* lamps, designed in 1974 by Michel Boyer for the French Embassy in Brazil.

Additionally, Verre Lumiere produced lighting by some of the best French designers of the period including Michel Mortier, Joseph André Motte, Jean Pierre Vitrac, Ben Swildens, Etienne Fermigier, Sabine Charoy, Kim Moltzer and Jean Paul Barray, Yonel Lebovici, and Christian Germanaz.

The company distributed its lighting from its flagship store in Paris, on rue du Faubourg Saint Honoré, along with lamps from Fontana Arte and Italian designers like Gio Ponti.



Ben Swilden, 1960s



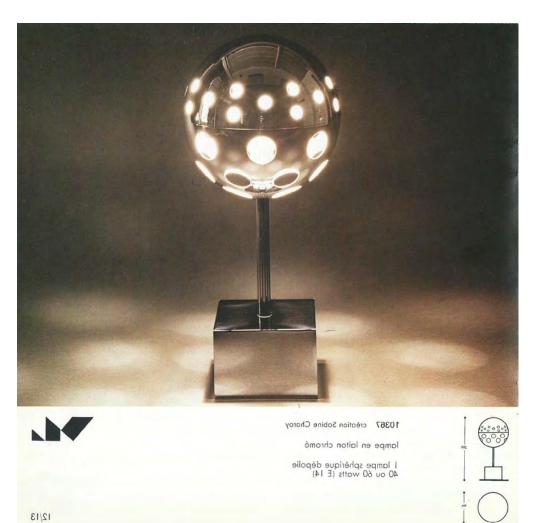


Michel Boyer

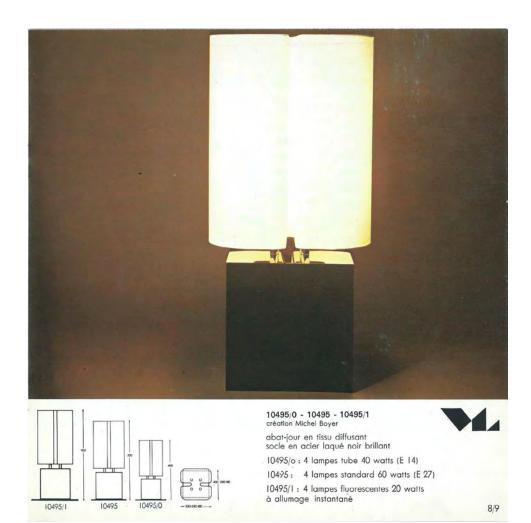
Desk Lamp, 1968
Chrome brass
17.32 H x 16.93 x 3.94 inches
44 H x 43 x 10 cm
Edition Verre Lumiere







Sabine Charoy. *Table Lamp*, 1969 Chrome brass 13.78 H x 7.09 inches 35 H x 18 cm Edition Verre Lumiere



Michel Boyer.

Pair of Brasilia lamps, 1974

Lacquered Steel, linen shades
15.75 H x 7.09 x 5.51 inches 40 H x 18 x 14 cm Edition Verre Lumiere







Sabine Charoy
Floor Lamp, 1969
Chrome brass and white lacquered steel
70.87 H x 11.81 x 20.08 inches
180 H x 30 x 51 cm
Edition Verre Lumiere



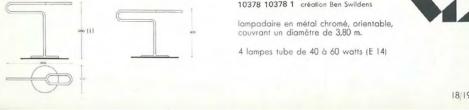


Etienne Fermigier.

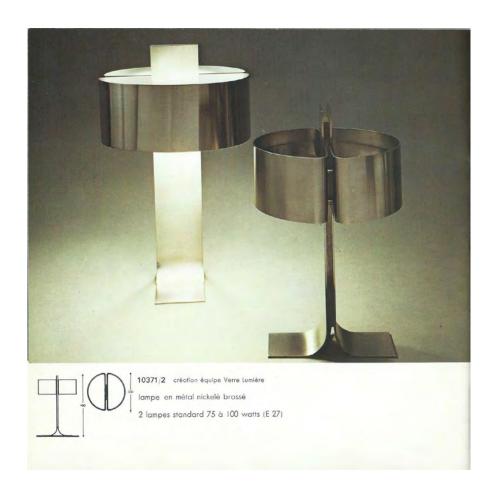
Adjustable Floor Lamp, 1969
Stainless steel, chromed metal,
black painted metal
64.56 H x 11.02 inches; 164 H X 28 cm
Edition Verre Lumiere







Ben Swildens. Floor Lamp, 1967 Chromed steel 53.5 H x 47.5 inches 136 H x 121 cm Edition Verre Lumiere



Verre Lumiere Studio

Table Lamp, 1969

Brushed nickel

16.54 H x 9.06 x 9.06 inches

42 H x 23 x 23 cm Edition Verre Lumiere





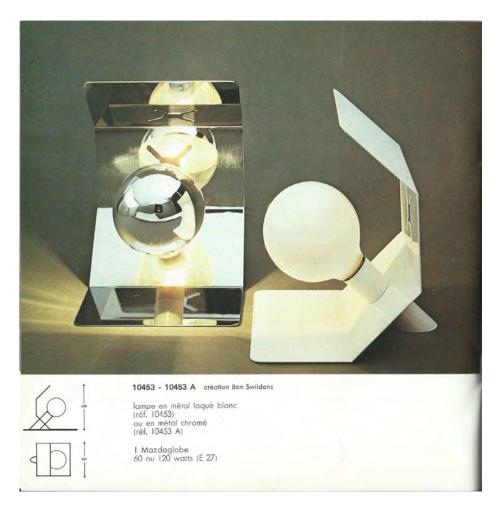


Ben Swildens.

Painted metal and opaline glass lamp, 1970

Painted metal and opaline glass

10.24 H x 9.84 inches 26 H x 25 cm Edition Verre Lumiere



Ben Swildens
Table lamp, c. 1970
Chrome metal
11.02 H x 8.07 inches
28 H x 20.5 cm
Edition Verre Lumiere





Jean-Pierre Vitrac Éventail Lamp, 1972 Opal glass and chrome metal 11.81 H x 31.5 inches 30 H x 80 cm Edition Verre Lumiere





Jean-Pierre Vitrac Flower Lamp, 1970 Chrome metal and stainless steel 55.5 H x 13 x 13 inches 141 H x 33 x 33 cm Edition Verre Lumiere









Verre Lumiere shop on rue du Faubourg Saint Honoré in Paris, 1969





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