



LIGHTING **Fin Cloud Lights**

In just its first few years in business, Studio Avni has steadily been gaining international recognition. Founded in 2011 by architect and designer Avni Sejpal, the Mumbai-based studio specialises in bespoke 3D textiles, furniture, and lights. The studio's 2013 lighting collection, the Faceted Tactile series was voted one of the best products during London's design festival Design 25 and won a bronze award from A' Design Award. Inspired by, among others, Buckminster Fuller's geodesic dome, the lighting collection is made of sculptural forms constructed from geometric modules made of metals and PVC.

This April, the studio showcased its collections at Salone Satellite, as well as launched its 2014 lighting collection, the Fin Cloud Light series. Continuing the Faceted Tactile series' material selection and handmade tradition, the Fin Cloud Light series is a sculptural take on biomorphism. The hand-cut "fin" modules are replicated and arranged around a central spine; the imperfections from the modules' handmade process lend an organic feel to the symmetrical order. "Bilateral symmetry is special to us since it's the most recognised balanced form found in nature," says Sejpal. "The ethereal light sculptures are reminiscent of scaly marine creatures such as sea anemone and jellyfishes whose forms possess a physical and mathematical basis with bioluminescence characteristics. The evolved light structures are biological analogues of these creatures, mimicking their bilateral geometries, not only by reflection but also by rotation of repeated elements." The collection includes nine lamps so far. Sejpal also collaborates with architects and interior designers to produce one-off and site-specific pieces based on the same concept and design. —Asih Jenie