

DECOR INSPIRATION





INSPIRATION Knight's steel armour from the Middle Ages

MATERIAL The Galchad chandelier has 20,000 aluminium plates connected by over 40,000 stainless steel rings

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"Philippe Montels' unique, unconventional art blends perfectly with our dream-like medieval castle enchantment. Launched at Salone del Mobile in 2005, his daring interpretation of the pendant lamp has acquired an iconic status for its craftsmanship."



THE TRYST

My first discussion started with the Cavalli family in 2005. They were attracted to my previous work at the French Atelier Paco Rabanne and we decided to collaborate on a distinct collection in aluminium for classical lighting. This was presented at the Verona Fair, the same year.

THE INSPIRATION

The gothic world: From age old shapes of ancient castles, the legend of King Arthur to Knights Of The Round Table and books like The Da Vinci Code. These influences came about by combining industrial mesh with Swarovski crystals to create a visual contrast.

THE BRIEF

I was asked to imagine an innovative, totally bespoke line. The goal was to apply aluminium bars to old school shapes for a range of ceiling danglers. The objective – to create luxury lighting that would add glamour and style to almost any space.

THE PROCESS

I was always influenced by the historical Belle Epoche style of 1920s and '30s, when the arts flourished. Enamoured by a bygone era, it was interesting to apply traditional forms and techniques to the new material as it was completely in sync with my own design philosophy. I used chain mail as I love its kinetics and nobody had thought of using this common metal to create luxury products.

THE FINALE

Over the last decade, we have installed this light fitting in beautiful residences, flagship stores, private yachts and luxury homes around the world. With the Galahad chandelier, boutiques and salons can be custom decorated to look like a modern day setting of "A Thousand and One Nights."



PHILIPPE MONTELS The Italian's eclectic career in art led him to design ambitious lighting creations in 2000 and his association with Visionnaire started in 2005 at Salone del Mobile. Since then he has wan several accolades for his innovative lights.

Website: www.visiannairehome.com Photographs courtesy Visiannaire