

BRILLIANT LIGHTS & LIGHTING

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The return to pattern and decoration demonstrated by many contemporary designers has also led to the use and adaptation of traditional craft techniques and materials for lighting products. The vocabulary is undeniably domestic, as illustrated by the **ANEMONE** lamp, designed by Finnish designers Mari Relander and Anna Katriina Tilli. The lamp is inspired by delicate bobbin-lace tablecloths, and the pattern is adapted from the **VUOKKO** lace series designed by Finnish lace-maker Eeva-Liisa Kortelahti. Fragments of lace (made by Arja Virtanen and Hellevi Wikgren) are attached to a hand-blown glass shade, which is also decorated with a frosted lace motif.

The intricate nature of bobbin lace is used to very different effect by Niels van Eijk in his glass-fibre **BOBBIN LACE LAMP** (2002). This is a lamp without a bulb, hand-knotted from a 500-metre skein of glass fibre optics, so that the shade becomes the light source itself. Lace is also the inspiration for Finnish artist Helena Hietanen, whose work entitled **TECHNOLACE** involves using hand-knotting techniques to create a large-scale fibre-optic art work. The work, which was first shown in Helsinki in 1996 and then at the Venice Biennale in 1997, is reconfigured for each site-specific context and has been exhibited in galleries all over the world. It was originally created as a response to an exhibition theme of handicraft, women and technology.

Lace-making is traditionally a gendered activity, and there is something poignant about the marriage of light with lace-making. Traditionally, lace-makers working at night would produce their intricate work using a candle or rush light surrounded by water-filled glass flasks to intensify the meagre light available.



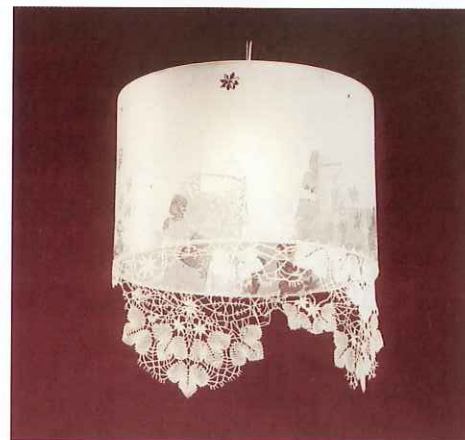
BOBBIN LACE LAMP

500m glass fibre, light projector
Niels van Eijk, self-production
the Netherlands
2002



DETAIL OF TECHNOLACE LIGHT SCULPTURE

Optical fibre, light projectors
Helena Hietanen, Finland
1997-2003
Courtesy of Galerie Anhava



ANEMONE LAMP

Frosted hand-blown glass, bobbin
lace, halogen bulb
Mari Relander and Anna Katriina
Tilli, self-production, Finland
2002