

✘ REVERSE TOUCHSTONE LIGHT BY PIETER MATHEWS Pretoria-based architect Pieter Mathews, founder of Mathews + Associates Architects, is known for his wide-ranging and indefatigable creative drive, and has designed recent landmarks such as the Javett Art Centre at the University of Pretoria. Pieter also operates at the more ephemeral end of design practice - case in point, his establishing Cool Capital. It's been billed as "the world's first uncurated, DIY, guerrilla biennale", and pivots around the idea of fusing creativity and citizen-initiated design interventions to activate shared public spaces and invigorate cities. His most recent thinking has been dominated by the crossovers between art and architecture. His Reverse Touchstone lamp - a table lamp prototype sculpted from an unfired brick - is an exploration of "handmadeness" and intuitive composition going back to the very roots of design: hand-fashioning an object from a natural material. He notes the way it deliberately bears the marks of its making - the "facets add folds, accentuating the corners and the texture of the clay". It's a game of meanings, because, despite looking like a brick and feeling like a brick, "It's not a brick, it's a light," says Pieter, "...and a brick." With its integrated cable design, it's an exploration of the point at which "services become cultural" and the design starts where you are, with what you have ready at hand. maaa.co.za



✘ INSERT PENDANT BY GOET FURNITURE AND DESIGN

Architect and urban designer Georg van Gass is the founder and director of GASS Architecture Studios. His recent award-winning projects include Green School South Africa outside Paarl, as well as the remarkable redevelopment of Jewel City in Johannesburg's eastern CBD. For many years, Georg has also pursued an interest in furniture, lighting and accessories through GOET Furniture and Design, together with his wife, Rhone. Their designs often feature a trademark combination of laser-cut steel and timber, bringing a wide range of expression to these raw materials. The Insert light is a geometric take on the idea of the pendant light or chandelier, playing with the concepts of heaviness and lightness, solidity and hollowness, illumination and object. "This light embodies our approach to mixing and combining different materials and textures," says Georg. goet.co.za