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"Most contract lighting solutions on the market are mainly designed to be as invisible as possible," says designer Marco Maturo, cofounder of Studio Klass. Maturo recognizes the logic but he and his partner, Alessio Roscini, wanted to do something different for Fontana Arte—design a functional system that would become a beautiful part of the interior design of a space. Beauty wasn't the only goal, though. They wanted to create a modular system that could be positioned at a variety of angles but powered by one LED source. To this end, they created Igloo and unveiled it in Frankfurt at Light + Building 2014. The self-extinguishing pendant lamps, made out of a plastic technopolymer, perform at a level that the contract industry expects, but are elegant enough to be displayed in a home. Here, Maturo explains how the Igloo system came to be.

By Shannon Sharpe



After graduating from the IED European School of Design in Milan, Marco Maturo (b. 1985) and Alessio Roscini (b. 1983) founded Studio Klass in 2009. The studio designs furnishings, lighting, and products.



01 Our starting point was designing a suspension system that can be both functional and decorative enough to be part of the interiors. We also wanted to come to a modular suspension system that is designed to allow many layouts—from linear to 90 degrees—using just one power point.

02 The biggest challenge was to find a way to join the modules using connectors with the double function of transmitting the electricity and keeping the whole system together structurally. Our first idea was to connect the modules with some jacks, but they weren't strong enough. So we developed a series of metal plates, which run across the lamp from side to side.

03 The only major design modification we made during the development was to increase the thickness of the vertical plane by five millimeters, because we needed more space to insert the electrical connections.

04 The series of electromechanical connections in curves and spacers allows for many open and flexible compositions. The double shell has a vertical plane in the middle, which allows repeatability.