



Stick Figures

ULTRA-THIN FLOOR LAMPS WHOSE SMALL FRAMES CARRY BIG IMPACT


WORDS [_Kendra Jackson](#)


IXA
A collaboration with Foster + Partners, Ixa interprets the “elegant balance” of Alexander Calder’s sculptures through a system of counterweights and pivot points that allow for rotation and inclination. Further, the spherical head welcomes interaction: Attached to its extension bar with a magnet, it can be rotated freely 360 degrees, directing light where it’s needed. Also available in table and wall versions, Ixa comes in Charcoal, Crane (yellow), Ink (blue) and Slip (light grey). [artemide.com](#)



FUNICULÍ
First launched in 1979 with an all-neutral palette, Funiculí by industrial designer Lluís Porqueras has been updated with three cheerful hues: terracotta, mustard and green. Displaying Porqueras’s penchant for creating useful objects with “absolute simplicity,” the lamp is free of any unnecessary details; a double-clamp system locks its fully rotatable head at different heights. [marset.com](#)

CUPOLINA
Inspired by the classic architectural element, Cupolina’s diminutive dome-shaped head is suspended from its angular metal body by a thin cord and projects a focused yet soft beam of light. Designed by Barcelona-based Boti de Dominicis Studio, the lamp is available in black, white, terracotta and custom colourways; the series also includes table, wall and pendant versions. [estiluz.com](#)





LUMINATOR
Achille and Pier Giacomo Castiglioni’s iconic 1954 design has been remastered with LED technology, a dimmer pedal and a more sustainable painting process — which is used to coat the lamp’s sleek metal tube in both its original anthracite finish as well as the newly introduced light blue, white, yellow and red options. Conceived by the brothers to be both essential and elegant, it still stands on its slender detachable tripod and casts light straight up to bathe interiors with indirect illumination. [flos.com](#)

PHOTO BY LOREM IPSUM DOLORE



marset outdoor
Gentle light by night



contemporary aluminum windows and doors

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Spotlight

_Building Envelope

Identical in size, shape and colour, Casa Santos's 11 concrete cubes create a harmonious expression that complements their desert placement.

Uniform Appeal

A PRIVATE RETREAT IN MEXICO USES REPETITION AND TEXTURED CONCRETE TO PROVIDE AN OASIS IN THE DESERT

WORDS _Kendra Jackson
PHOTOS _Jaime Navarro

Just a short trek from Todos Santos in Baja California Sur, Mexico, is a mini compound offering a unique escape from the bustle of the up-and-coming tourist town. Surrounded by a desert landscape dotted with low-lying scrub and cacti, Casa Santos responds to its environmental context through resilient and sustainable architecture that celebrates place and performance.

When architects María Gómez, Héctor Coss and Giovanni Ocampo were commissioned for the project, it was initially intended as a private villa for two business owners and their families. In a move that proved fortuitous, as the retreat is now available for public bookings, the trio broke away from a standard house set-up by sequestering different room functions

(bedroom, kitchen and living space) into 11 separate yet identical cubes arranged into three clusters (two main groupings of four and a guest set of three).

"From the very beginning, we were fascinated by the idea of completing the program with formworks," Gómez says of the decision to have the modules made from concrete. This was also a pragmatic choice: The seismic desert region experiences dramatic temperature shifts from day to night. Another priority was to ensure that the structures blended in with their surroundings, so the architects collected rock samples to formulate a colour-matched vegetable-pigment tint for the Cemex concrete. After prototyping for design, dimension and hue at their workshop in Oaxaca, a single 4-by-4-by-3.2-metre frame was developed as the formwork for all 11 buildings. "This allowed us to achieve great efficiencies of scale in the construction process," says Gómez. She also notes that all scrap metal left over from the formwork was used for doors, gates and fences across the property (which also includes an oasis-like plunge pool and a low-slung maintenance and storage shed).

Poured on site, the 11 cubes are defined by their "sunset pink" tone and thick ribs, which give them a compelling texture and aid in climate control. "The channels provide shadows throughout the day, which lowers the temperature during the summer months," says Gómez. Inside, these "gutters" contribute a pleasing visual rhythm that is enhanced by smooth concrete



ABOVE: Large sliding windows provide entry to the interiors, where the ribbed concrete surfaces are continued and blended with smooth walls and wood furnishings. The exteriors' fluted surface creates shadows that help keep the interiors cool.

dividing walls and flat-fronted built-in wood furnishings. Large sliding glass windows afford access to private terraces framed by open steel canopies, which can be draped with canvas for further protection from the sun. hcarq.com, mariagomez.mx