

Emotional Light: Designing light as a Living Presence

Master Product Design for Human-Robot Interaction • e-Novia

ABOUT THE COMPANY

e-Novia is an innovation ecosystem that has given birth to a deep tech industrial group with highly innovative products rooted in Italian technical-scientific and manufacturing excellence. Starting from the most innovative technologies, developed thanks to the collaboration with the best universities and the most prestigious research centres, they work to transform intellectual property into companies and products to be brought to the market generating tangible industrial assets.

1. Brief

Design an illuminating object, a lamp that redefines how light inhabits space. By fusing creativity with robotics and embedded technology, the challenge is to create a presence: an object where illumination feels innate, emerging organically from its form or materiality rather than functioning as an external device. The technology: sensors, adaptive systems, interactivity, energy must remain invisible, operating quietly beneath the surface. The result should feel almost alive, its intelligence sensed but never seen. We seek radical visions where light is not just emitted, but revealed, subtle, transformative, and profoundly integrated.

The objective of the contest is to present sketches, renderings, and a brief written explanation of the design concept (maximum 500 words). The submission should highlight how the proposed concept takes advantage of robotic technologies.

Applicants are invited to follow the subsequent guidelines to formulate their design concept:

- **Identify Robotic Technologies**
Research and propose cutting-edge robotic technologies that can be discreetly embedded within the object. These may include sensors, actuators, artificial intelligence, haptic feedback, drone systems, adaptive materials, power sources, or any relevant components. Explain how these technologies operate quietly, without overt interfaces or visible mechanisms.
- **Innovative Application**
Present a visionary and transformative application of robotics within the object. Go beyond functionality—explore how your design enhances perception, presence, or emotional connection. Consider how it challenges the boundaries of what “light” can do and redefines its role in the user’s environment.
- **Feasibility and Practicality**
While bold ideas are encouraged, ground the proposal in the realities of current or near-future technology. Address practical considerations such as energy consumption, material constraints, durability, user interaction, and cost. Highlight potential challenges and propose elegant, integrated solutions.
- **Design and Aesthetics**
Bring the concept to life through compelling visuals—sketches, renders, or prototypes. Emphasize form, texture, and atmosphere. The design should embody contemporary aesthetics while expressing an almost immaterial intelligence—light not as decoration or utility, but as an intrinsic quality of the object itself.

2. Criteria of participation

The call is open to graduates holding a University degree or equivalent study in Design, Product Design and/or Industrial Design or to professionals with relevant experience in these fields. Applicants should demonstrate a strong passion for design and possess a creative mindset.

Participation is individual – group submissions are not allowed.

3. How to participate

Participation in the call is free and the official language of the call is English.

The proposal should include sketches, renderings, and a brief written explanation (maximum 500 words) that outlines the rationale behind the design concept.

The submission should highlight how the proposed concept takes advantage of robotic technologies.

The project must be submitted in PDF format.

In addition to the project file, please upload also the following documents:

- Copy of University Degree or equivalent: if you haven't received your Degree, yet, you can upload a certificate on enrolment confirming you are about to graduate;**
- Copy of University Transcript;**
- Passport scan / ID;
- Signed Personal Statement (Letter of motivation): we suggest you explain why you wish to participate in the Initiative, how would you develop your career in the coming years, what are your personal goals, etc. (about 100 words);
- Reference Letter 1;
- Reference Letter 2;
- Curriculum Vitae;
- Portfolio of works.

4. Calendar

Deadline for the submission of registration and for the submission of the creative project is **July 28th, 2025**.

5. Academic Committee

The Committee is composed of Istituto Marangoni Academic Committee and e-Novia professionals.

7. Evaluation criteria

Projects will be evaluated by a specialised jury (hereby called the "Jury") and ranked on the basis of the following criteria:

- Consistency with the objective
- Innovative proposal
- Validity of the proposal from a strategic point of view
- Overall quality
- Capacity of synthesis and clarity in the exposure of the idea

8. Award

The winner will be awarded a scholarship up to 50% deduction on the tuition fee (enrollment fee is due) for the Master in Product Design for Human-Robot Interaction starting in September 2025 in Milano Design School.

Following the winner's award, other participants may be awarded a lower scholarship amount according to the Jury's selection.

Any scholarship allocated to the intake for which the student is enrolling (e.g. September '25) will NOT be automatically valid and confirmed for the next intake (e.g. February '26). The Management together with the Academic Committee will assess any reassignment.

9. Results and publication

At the end of the selection made by the Jury, the winner of the call will be announced via e-mail and telephone. The final project and the final news might be published on Istituto Marangoni official communication channels. The selected participant for the scholarship shall confirm his/her interest in the scholarship within 5 (five) days from the date of the first communication by email.

After that period has elapsed without receiving any communication from the winner, the scholarship shall be considered as expired and shall be reassigned.

The acceptance of the scholarship implies the obligation for the winner to file an application for the selected course and pay the residual quote of the tuition fee.

10. Rights and use of the delivered outputs

The participants (hereinafter the "Participants") agree to transfer free of charge to Istituto Marangoni¹ and its successors the right to use the special projects (hereinafter the "Projects" or, in the singular, "Project") and the products that will be, where applicable, implemented as a consequence of the Project; the right to use any output delivered for the participation to the Initiative in partnership with **e-Novia**, as well as all the materials connected to the projects and delivered, including the drawing of the Project, the sketches, the samples, the models, the tests and the video and photo materials. Istituto Marangoni reserves the right to use, publish and exploit the Projects in the form and manner deemed most appropriate: Participants also authorise Istituto Marangoni to use the documents received for promotional purposes and in the manner deemed most appropriate. The Participants, joining the Initiative in partnership with **e-Novia**, declare that Istituto Marangoni and its successors cannot be subject to any claim resulting from such use. In any case, the Participants agree to indemnify and hold Istituto Marangoni and its successors harmless from any liability toward third parties.

11. Declarations and warranty

Each Participant declares and guarantees:

- (i) to be the author of the Project, to own and to be fully, legitimately and autonomously entitled to grant, without limitation, all the rights granted herein, including but not limited to intellectual property rights anyhow related to the Project;
- (ii) that the Project is original and shall not, directly or indirectly, infringe any third parties' right, including copyrights and intellectual property rights;
- (iii) that the Project shall not contain any obscene, violent, defamatory, blaspheme, upsetting elements and that it shall not infringe any third party personal and patrimonial right (including

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Shanghai Fashion Training Centre, Floor 7, Building A, The Roof, No. 458 Madang Road, Hunagpu District, Shanghai 200025 – China

moral rights, image rights, honour and/or reputation and/or confidentiality rights, copyrights, data protection, publishing and/or others rights) or any applicable law;

(iv) in the event the Project contains elements and/or parts from third parties works, the Participant guarantee to have obtained in advance and/or to obtain all necessary consents, releases and/or authorizations, as well as all usage rights of the Project granted herein;

(v) that there are no rights or agreement with any third party which shall interfere with the rights granted herein and with the full and free usage and arrangement of the Project by Istituto Marangoni and its successors.

In any case, the Participant undertakes to indemnify and hold Istituto Marangoni and its successors harmless with respect to every demand, claim, contestation or request, whether made or brought before the courts or otherwise, by third parties related to the Project and/or to the rights granted pursuant the article 9 and/or that are inconsistent with the representations, warranties and obligations that the Participant has provided herein or by law and/or may interfere with the full and free exploitation by Istituto Marangoni and its successors of the rights granted herein.

12. Information notice on personal data processing

Personal data ("Data") collected in relation to participation in the Initiative will be registered in the database of Istituto Marangoni, controller of the treatment ("Data Controller"), pursuant to of the General European Data Protection Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council, of 27 April 2016 and related implementing legislation (hereinafter, jointly, the "Regulation").

Data of the Participants collected in relation to their participation in the Initiative will be processed by Data Controller for the following purposes: .

- (i) to enable Participants to submit their application and, if necessary, to subsequently provide further information useful and/or necessary for the assessment of their application;
- (ii) for purposes related with and instrumental to the process of evaluating, reviewing and selecting of the validly submitted applications;
- (iii) for the management of the participation in the Initiative, including sending requests for integration of the application, information materials, updates, communications and/or changes to the programme related to the Initiative itself; as well as for deciding and announcing winners;
- (iv) to fulfil any obligation provided for by laws, regulations, Community rules, orders, prescriptions and/or requests made by the Judicial Authority or by any person authorised to do so under legal provisions and secondary legislation;
- (v) to exercise the rights and protect the legitimate interests of the Data Controller, such as the right the right to legal defence.

The processing of the Data for the purposes indicated in points (i), (ii) and (iii) above shall be carried out by Data Controller for the purpose of execute Participants' application, for the assessment and possible selection of the projects and - in the event of effective selection and confirmation - for announcing and proclaiming the winners and therefore does not require Participants' express consent (pursuant to article 6.1 letter (b) of the Regulations). For such uses, the release of the data requested by Istituto Marangoni is indispensable and, therefore, failure to provide such Data will prevent Participants' application from being examined and, consequently, their participation in the Initiative (pursuant to article 6.1, letter (b) of the GDPR).

Data processing for the purposes specified in points (iv) and (v) above is carried out to fulfil legal obligations, and therefore does not require Participants' express consent (pursuant to article 6.1, letter (c) of the GDPR).

Participants' Data shall be processed by means of manual, computer and electronic tools, in any case able to guarantee the security thereof and to avoid unauthorised access to the Data.

Participants' Data and projects shall be communicated by Istituto Marangoni to third parties for the purposes of selecting and evaluating Projects within the scope of the Initiative. The release of Data for this purpose is necessary to participate in the Initiative.

Pursuant to the Regulation, those whose Data are collected as a result of the participation in the Initiative are entitled to: a) obtain information on the existence of the data and the purpose for which the Data is processed, the storage period and the persons to whom the Data is disclosed; b) obtain disclosure of the Data in a format in common use, readable by any automatic, interoperable device; c) object to some or all of the processing; d) obtain the update, correction, integration, limitation, deletion, blocking or transformation of the Data to an anonymous form. Istituto Marangoni also reminds that Participants are entitled to contact the Data Protection Authority ((Piazza di Monte Citorio, 121 – 00186 Rome RM) to assert Participants' rights regarding the processing of the Data. Participants may exercise the rights set forth above by means of a written request to be sent to the Data Protection Officer (so called DPO) Frareg S.r.l. - Viale Jenner 38, 20159 Milano MI – Italy, appointed by Data Controller, on email address dpo@frareg.com who has been appointed by the Data Controller.

13. Use of personal data

Participants authorise Istituto Marangoni to use their Data and images, as well as to realise and acquire videos, photos, registrations and to consign their image through third parties and by any means and activity related to the Initiative within six months starting from the expiry of the Initiative.

They grant to Istituto Marangoni the right to use the said “material” in the context of the publishing products under the direction of Istituto Marangoni and in the context of the institutional website and social networks of Istituto Marangoni and its successors.

14. Applicable law and jurisdiction

The Italian law will govern the Initiative and the relations between the Participants. Any dispute that may arise between the promoters and the Participants will be of exclusive jurisdiction of the Court of Milan (Italy).

15. Exemption from the ministerial validation

Pursuant to the article 6, D.P.R. 430, dated 26/10/2001, this Initiative is not a prize competition or lottery: as a result, no ministerial authorization is needed.