

ONE 2009

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# LIGHTING PAPER LANTERNS

Traditional paper lights have been one of Japan's most prevalent and underestimated style legacies and, after years of association with students and rented accommodation, more than due for a revival.

At this January's Maison&Objet there was certainly a plethora of designs; many going back to traditional Japanese roots. Hiyoshiya (wagasa), a classic Japanese umbrella shop, has recently used craft traditions to create its Kotori lamp line, based on the same principle as umbrellas.

Also from Japan, Kyoei Design has a traditional shaped table light made entirely from paper that works on the same principal as those paper fold out bells used as Christmas decorations. Or there are the graphically striking demon heads at Sentou. Also taking inspiration from the traditional Japanese globe shapes is Hye Young Yu (Espacicorea); only with a quirky all paper twist to bring the design up to date.

Meanwhile Canadian company Molo moves away from tradition and instead plays with the shape, creating a beautiful, understated design called Urchin.

Cost effective, perfect for softening energy efficient bulbs and ideal for a low key aesthetic that isn't trying too hard; paper lights look tipped to make a real impact on the lighting scene in 2009. ■■■

Photos: Tamsin Kingswell (2,5)



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**Contacts**

- [www.espacicorea.com](http://www.espacicorea.com) (4)
- [www.kyoei.co.jp](http://www.kyoei.co.jp)
- [www.maison-objet.com](http://www.maison-objet.com) (2,5)
- [www.molodesign.com](http://www.molodesign.com) (3)
- [www.sentou.jp](http://www.sentou.jp) (7)
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