

CROSS-PLEX™ BY BODIL KJAER

Refined transparent functionalist light, reissued after almost 60 years

Fritz Hansen™ and proudly welcome the internationally oriented Danish architect, designer and professor Bodil Kjaer to their design family, with the re-introduction of the Cross-Plex™ lamp from 1961. This new design collaboration is part of a series of new initiatives from Fritz Hansen to continue the design company's proud traditions of exquisite craftsmanship, quality and timeless design by producing pieces which both compliment and add a new dimension to the Nordic design realm of Fritz Hansen.

BODIL KJAER'S CONTRIBUTION TO DANISH HYGGE

The Cross-Plex™ lamp reflects Bodil Kjaer's philosophy of not merely designing but creating solutions and solving problems. The lamp was conceived after Kjaer burnt some newspapers on lit candles at her home; The solution was to design a lamp that could substitute the use of candles whilst bringing the same kind of 'Hygge' to the room.

A FUNCTIONALIST DESIGN LANGUAGE

The Cross-Plex™ lamp is a true example of Bodil Kjaer's functionalistic approach to design with its clean-cut and straight lines. The base in clear acrylic glass is shaped like a cross and constructed as a puzzle, leaving the exact amount of space needed for the cord to ascend in the centre where it perfectly meets the socket. The cubic shade is formed from opal acrylic glass and when seen in profile, the table lamp almost looks like a miniature building with the opal shade representing an illuminated roof - touching upon aesthetics of big-city nightlife and international hotel interiors.

Design Manager, Dorthe Helm, is very excited about including the Cross-Plex lamp in the collection. "Cross-Plex is as relevant today as it was almost 60 years ago, adding a new design language to the Lightyears collection. The design and the idea behind it, look so simple, almost obvious, and yet I have never seen anything like it. The honesty and functionality in the piece makes it a classic and timeless lamp which will fit beautifully into every modern home.



CROSS-PLEX™

I believe Cross Plex complements our highly praised Nordic lighting tradition by adding a more international style.” Dorthe Helm continues, “It is quite unique to relaunch the Cross-Plex lamp in close cooperation with Bodil Kjaer, and a privilege to learn from her stories, from a fascinating life and career which was rare for a woman from her generation”.
Dorthe Helm, Design Manager – Lightyears.

DESIGN COLLABORATIONS

Inviting Bodil Kjaer into Republic of Fritz Hansen’s portfolio of timeless design is a natural enlargement to the Fritz Hansen design family. Kjaer’s career involves working together with several prominent designers, including Arne Jacobsen and the American designer Paul McCobb, whilst also making a name for herself as one of her generation’s few female architects. When asking Bodil Kjaer about her design she explains that she considers herself, not a minimalist but an “essentialist”, as her designs consist of only the most necessary parts needed. In this case, a cord, socket, bulb, base and shade – the essence of a lamp. Kjaer says, “I’m not afraid of experimenting or working in new materials, or using new methods. I’m interested in the functionality of the product and in understanding society, as well as maintaining the core principle that design should suit the user and not the other way around”.

BODIL KJAER (1932-)

Architect MAA, designer and Professor Bodil Kjaer grew up in Jutland, Denmark but travelled to London, New York and Washington D.C. to study and work.

Today she has a resume of more than 56 pages and she has worked with some of the most prominent names within architecture and design during her career. Bodil Kjaer has what she calls a problem-solving approach to design; she wants to create solutions to ‘functional, economic and aesthetic problems and she refers to her own designs as elements of architecture.

The Cross-Plex lamp comes in two heights; a 300-mm version and a 500-mm version – we call them Cross-Plex™ lamp 300 and Cross-Plex™ lamp 500.

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Founded in Denmark in 1872, Fritz Hansen is a global leader in furniture, lighting and accessory design and production. Driven by a passion for beauty, quality, and craftsmanship, the company embodies a modern, Nordic lifestyle and collaborates with visionary artists, designers, and architects from around the world. The brand has collaborated with Arne Jacobsen, Cecilie Manz, Hans J. Wegner, Piero Lissoni, and Poul Kjærholm, among others.

Today Fritz Hansen designs are sold in more than 85 countries through 2,000 points of sale, including flagship stores in Copenhagen, San Francisco, New York, Milan, and Tokyo. The company employs 260 people worldwide and maintains its headquarters north of Copenhagen, serving design-passionate customers through contract and retail.

For more information, visit fritzhansen.com