

# Metaphoric Concept Implementation of Water Lily Towards 'Lilya' Luminaire Design

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## ABSTRACT

Water lilies are well known for its unique appearance and beauty as it floats on the surface of still water. This aquatic plant may often be seen in many Asian art as they are portrayed as a symbolic image of rebirth, beauty and purity. Through the study on the symbolic meanings of water lilies, these values are implemented on the design concept of 'Lilya'. The process of designing 'Lilya' is carried out by using Rosemary Kilmer's design process which covers analysis and synthesis stage, starting from gathering information about water lilies and their symbolism, which then became the basis of designing 'Lilya'. The luminaire's form is based on the unique shape of a water lily leaf pad yet made of glass, with a touch of stainless steel and marble to create a more elegant look. 'Lilya' uses edge-lit glass method where the glass is engraved with lines, from the perimeter towards the center, which will then light up as the luminaire is turned on. By implementing the metaphoric concept of water lily towards the design, 'Lilya' radiates a positive atmosphere towards the surrounding space just as what water lilies are symbolized as.

**Keywords:** Luminaire, metaphoric concept, symbolism, water lily

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Lighting affects the ambience of the environment around us without realizing it. Lighting takes a big role in creating the atmosphere of a room. Even small details can make such a big difference [1]. To complete an interior design, decorative elements, such as luminaires, can be the key to enhance the visual and mood of the room [2]. Designers find creative ways to invent new and innovative products. Creating a design concept does not only mean problem solving. However, designers can also be inspired by making use of metaphors [3]. Even the simplest things seen in the surrounding environment can be an inspiration to design a product. The design of 'Lilya' was created by implementing metaphoric concept of water lilies.

Water lilies are aquatic plants that may be seen along in still water such as slow-flowing rivers, lakes, and ponds. They grow starting from beneath the soil at the bottom of water with round green leaves and beautiful flowers floating on the surface of the water. The flowers come in shades of white, yellow, orange, pinks, and reds based on their species. Water-lilies are widely known for the unique form of their leaves which are round in shape with one slit that goes all the way towards the center [4].

Water lilies are frequently seen in Asian art. The flowers are oftentimes portrayed as a symbolic image in many Asian religions. In the Hindu and Buddhist traditions, water lilies are often present, symbolizing resurrection, rebirth, and

new spirit, in the same way as to how water lilies close their flowers during the night and reopen as the sun rises. In Buddhism, water lilies are also considered as optimistic symbols of enlightenment and spiritual awakening as their blossom grows up from mud then blooms into an object of great beauty. In Hinduism, water lilies are known to be associated with beauty, eternity, and prosperity. [5] Water lilies are known for their long vitality as they stay clean and not wet even though water lilies are found in dirty ponds and water. As a result, this symbolizes continuous devotion that leads to enlightenment even when surrounded by the sufferings of this world [6].

## 2. BACKGROUND

### 2.1. Method

This design process is carried out by using a method pioneered by Rosemary Kilmer. The design process can be divided into two stages, namely analysis and synthesis [7]:

#### 1. Analysis

##### a. Data Collection

In this stage, data collection is done to find out the objectives and purpose of the design. In this stage, data is collected by gathering literature data such as symbolic meanings of water lilies and the theory of

lighting through books, journals, and digital references.

b. Data Analysis

After collecting data from various resources, the information that has been obtained is analysed to implement the concept of water lily towards the luminaire design.

2. Synthesis

a. Ideate

The next stage is exploring ideas to form design concepts, alternative designs, materials and colour selections of the luminaire product.

b. Choose and Implement

Afterward, the design of the luminaire product is selected, followed by 3D modelling and rendering.

c. Evaluate

The design is then reviewed and revised to perfect the luminaire design.

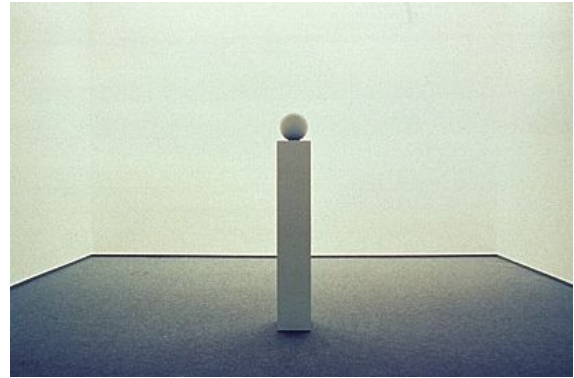
**2.2. Richard Kelly’s Theory**

The process of designing this luminaire product is based on Richard Kelly’s theory of lighting. This theory was introduced in Kelly’s college paper, “Light as an Integral Part of Architecture” (1952). Kelly classifies lighting into three categories: “Focal glow, ambient luminescence. (3) play of brilliants.” [8]



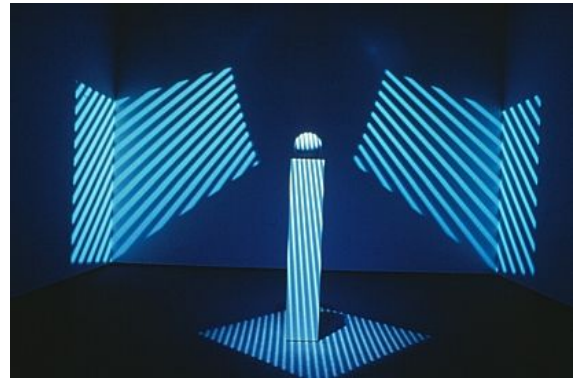
**Figure 1 Focal Glow**  
(By: Erco)

“Focal glow” highlights something important, attracts attention and helps one to focus on what is emphasized. This type of lighting also helps people do specific tasks and differentiate on what is important. One example is spotlights illuminating an ancient artefact in a museum.



**Figure 2 Ambient Luminescence**  
(By: Erco)

“Ambient luminescence” floods the room with light, provides comfortable level of illumination for one to see and walk safely. “Ambient luminescence” does not highlight one against the others. It supplies general illumination towards the surroundings evenly with soft shadows.

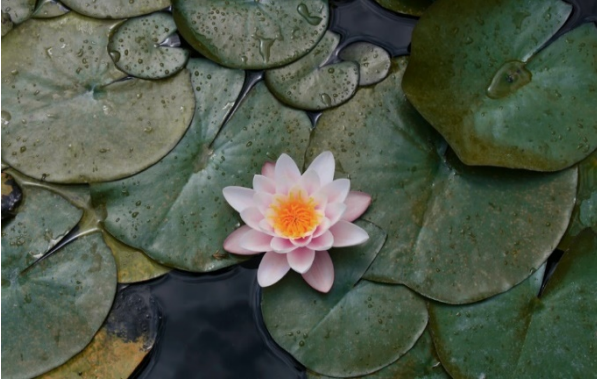


**Figure 3 Play of Brilliants**  
(By: Erco)

“Play of Brilliants” invites drama by creating visual interest towards the eyes. This type of lighting does not only attract attention to provide information, the lighting can be the information itself. “Play of Brilliants” brings up life and excitement towards the surroundings with its brilliant effects.

**3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

Throughout the process of designing this luminaire, the shape of a water lily’s leaf became an inspiration because of its uniquely distinctive shape and positive symbolism lying behind its beautiful appearance. By implementing the metaphoric concept of water lilies, the design is made simple, pleasing to the eye and based on the values water lilies are symbolized of kept in mind.



**Figure 4** Water Lily  
(By: Laura Lugaresi, 2020)

**LILYA**  
Canisha Chrystella

**Konsep Dasar**  
Lilya is a luminaire inspired by water lilies. Water lilies grow in still water and ponds. Both the flower and lily pad floats on the surface of the water. The leaves are round or oval in shape and has a slit that goes to the center.

**Local Potential**  
This luminaire is a play of brilliant that has appealing features and adds a visual aesthetic to the surroundings. With subtle light, not too harsh, this luminaire is pleasant to look at. This luminaire is suitable to enhance a living room.

**Market**  
The target market is aimed to the ones who have a sense in modern, art deco or modern oriental style.

**Material & Technology**  
'Lilya' uses a blend of gold-colored stainless steel, marble and glass. This luminaire also makes use a unique method which is the edge-fit glass method.

**Lifestyle**  
'Lilya' provides an aesthetic element which is also popular at the present time because of its luxurious look.

**Figure 5** Design Concept of Lilya  
(By: Canisha Chrystella, 2021)



**Figure 6** Lilya Pendant Lamp  
(By: Canisha Chrystella, 2021)

The name of the luminaire, ‘Lilya’, is based on the word water lily. It derives from the Latin root “lilia”, meaning “lily flower”. The design was formed by making use of the basic shape and colour of water lilies. ‘Lilya’ has two forms of luminaire fixtures which are pendant lamp and wall lamp. ‘Lilya’ pendant lamp has three pendants suspended at different height levels.

The base of the luminaire is inspired by the leaf shape which is round with a slit that goes towards the center. This part of the luminaire is made of green-tinted glass. Colors also affect the mood of a person, color plays an important role. Even colors on a design product can affect the emotions and feelings of a person. With pale green color as the base color of ‘Lilya’, it symbolizes nature, tranquillity, and refreshing. Pale green is known to be the most relaxing color and can make a great impact as it has great healing powers, keeping one’s mind calm. [9]

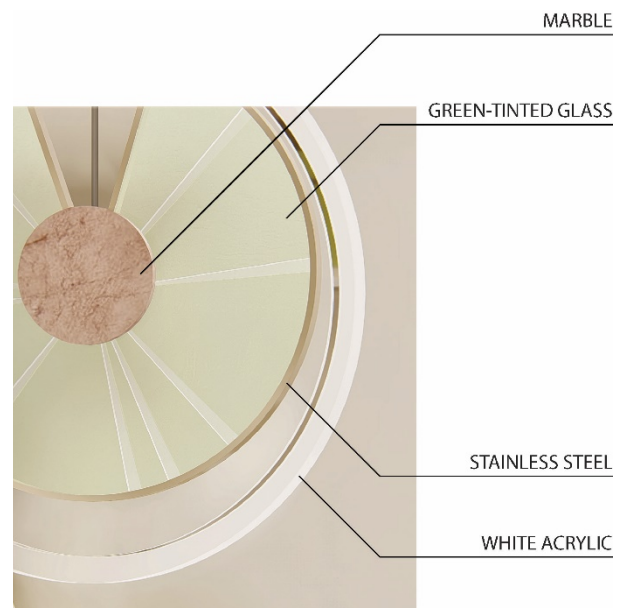
To represent the veins of a lily pad, the glass is engraved with lines where the light will shine, starting from the perimeter of the glass towards the center. Edge-lit glass method is used where the glass is engraved so that when the lamp is turned on, the light will refract and bounce continuously inside the glass plane. However, when light touches the edge or the engraved part of the glass, light will be illuminated. This method makes ‘Lilya’ unique as it is not commonly found in pendant lamps. Edge-lit glass are commonly found as a signage. With this method implemented, it is as if the lines engraved on the glass are glowing.

Besides tinted glass, gold stainless steel is used to add a luxurious feel to the luminaire. Round pink marble placed at the center of the glass represents the flower of a water lily. In addition, a ring made from white acrylic encircles

the lily pad-shaped glass. LED strip is located in this white acrylic ring. Therefore, producing more light to the surrounding when the luminaire is turned on.



**Figure 7** Lilya Pendant Lamp Detail  
(By: Canisha Chrystella, 2021)

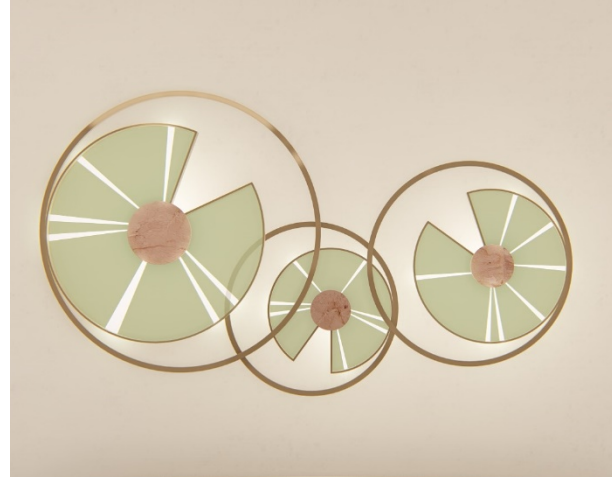


**Figure 8** Lilya Lamp Material  
(By: Canisha Chrystella, 2021)

This luminaire is a play of brilliants as it has its own unique attractiveness and gives additional aesthetics towards the surroundings. With its subtle light, not glaring, this luminaire is pleasant to the eyes. This pendant lamp is suitable to be placed in the living room. As water lilies symbolize rebirth, spiritual awakening, purity, and even beauty, ‘Lylia’ brings an optimistic atmosphere to the room that brings people together with a sense of new hope. ‘Lilya’ gives out a feeling of relaxation and tranquillity with its simple yet elegant design.



**Figure 9** Lilya Pendant Lamp in living room  
(By: Canisha Chrystella, 2021)



**Figure 11** Lilya Wall Lamp  
(By: Canisha Chrystella, 2021)



**Figure 10** Living Room Section  
(By: Canisha Chrystella, 2021)



**Figure 12** Lilya Wall Lamp Detail  
(By: Canisha Chrystella, 2021)

A wall lamp version of the ‘Lilya’ also has similar properties as the pendant lamp. The wall lamp visualizes three lily pads with different sizes. This wall lamp is more of a decorative luminaire for the reason that it does not provide as much light as the pendant lamp. The pendant lamp has the acrylic ring that acts as a light source. On the other hand, the wall lamp replaces the acrylic ring with a gold colored stainless steel as the ring symbolizing the ripple when water lilies float on the surface of the water. This wall lamp’s light source is hidden behind the round marble plate which results in indirect lighting. With indirect lighting, it emits soft illumination, not too bright as to provide general lighting, so it is comfortable to be look at directly.



**Figure 13** Lilya Wall Lamp in living room  
(By: Canisha Chrystella, 2021)

This wall lamp is also a great choice to be placed in a living room as it radiates a calming and elegant look of resembling water lilies floating on a surface of a gentle pond. With its

luxurious and appealing features, 'Lilya' wall lamp enhances the visual scene of a room.

'Lilya' is a luminaire which can be placed in various interior styles. However, 'Lilya' is more suitable when placed in interiors with modern, art deco or modern oriental styles.

#### 4. CONCLUSIONS

Water lilies are well known for its beauty. However, behind that beauty, this aquatic plant is also a significant symbol in many Asian culture and religions. Water lilies symbolize rebirth, purity, beauty, and enlightenment. By implementing these values of water lilies towards the design of 'Lilya', this luminaire also radiates these values towards the surrounding space by bringing the optimistic atmosphere.

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