

GUBI

GUBI presents the Satellite Wall Lamp

BY MATHIEU MATÉGOT



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During a period of forward-looking post-war optimism, Mathieu Matégot (1910–2001) put his own material innovation, Rigitulle, to work in his Satellite Collection, named with a nod and a wink to the scientific progress in France at the time. Rigitulle enabled Matégot to reinvent the traditional lampshade, conceiving a playful new typology for lighting.

The Satellite Wall Lamp (1953) comprises two shades made from his perforated steel, concertina-folded into ovoid forms, and mounted onto elongated sculptural metal arms. Now, after almost 70 years, GUBI is putting this daring design back into production alongside the Satellite Pendant, Flower Pots and Bowl – also made from Rigitulle – and Matégot's ingenious furniture designs, such as the Démon Shelves and Copacabana and Nagasaki Chairs, all of which are already part of the GUBI Collection.

Matégot was a self-taught Hungarian designer who settled in Paris after travelling, studying, and gaining experience in set design, window dressing, fashion, and tapestry. He volunteered for the French army during the Second World War but was captured by the Germans and put to work in a mechanical accessories plant. It was here that he recognized the potential for perforated sheet metal to lend transparency, weightlessness and modernity to new forms. After the war, he developed Rigitulle – his take on the material – and his own folding, shaping, and bending technique with which to form it into an inventive range of furniture and home accessories.

The Satellite Wall Lamp comprises two arms, each finished with an individual ovoid Rigitulle shade. The shades are identical to those used in the Satellite Pendant, where they are topped with a shallow 'hat' to deflect light back into the room, but without the 'hat', they have a very different expression. In the Satellite

Wall Lamp – which can also be mounted on the ceiling – the two precisely balanced arms cross and overlap so that the shades evoke balloons pulling away from one another on diagonal strings – a moment in time, frozen and captured. Due to the generous length of the arms, the lamp has been designed to be taken apart for efficient transport and seamlessly reconstructed on arrival. The Satellite Wall Lamp has, of course, also been carefully refined to comply with current safety standards, while remaining true to Matégot's original concept.

His background as a set designer gave Matégot a taste for the interplay of light and shadow, and so he didn't consider a lamp merely a functional object, but rather a key player in any interior scheme. It had not only to provide lighting, but brilliance, surprise and delight. As a result, the Satellite Wall Lamp is almost an abstract modernist sculpture in monochromic black and white when switched off. Turn it on and its playful and airy construction radiates beguiling patterns of light, creating a dynamic and playful, yet subtle ambience whether it is a statement piece in the home or used to bring energy and vitality to a hospitality or corporate setting.

GUBI is renowned for its daring and elegant collection of furniture, lighting and interior objects – and for treading its own path in the discovery of aesthetic appeal and simplicity combined with innovation and timelessness. Matégot was a pioneering, self-taught designer who forged his own way too, seeing opportunity even within the constraints of captivity during the Second World War. The collaboration is a natural evolution of Matégot's work, enabling GUBI to finish what he started all those years ago.



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