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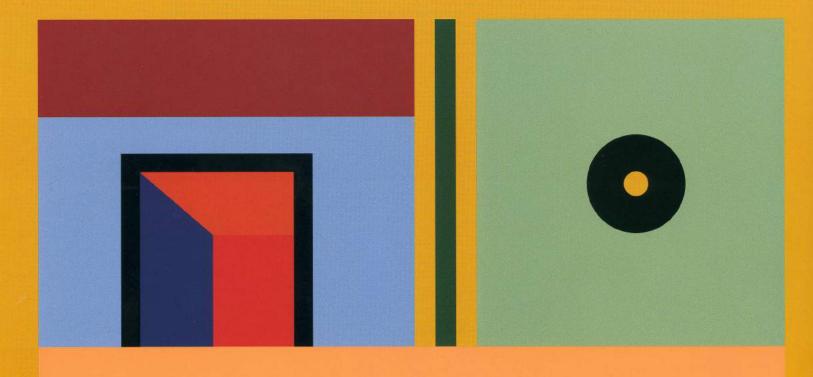
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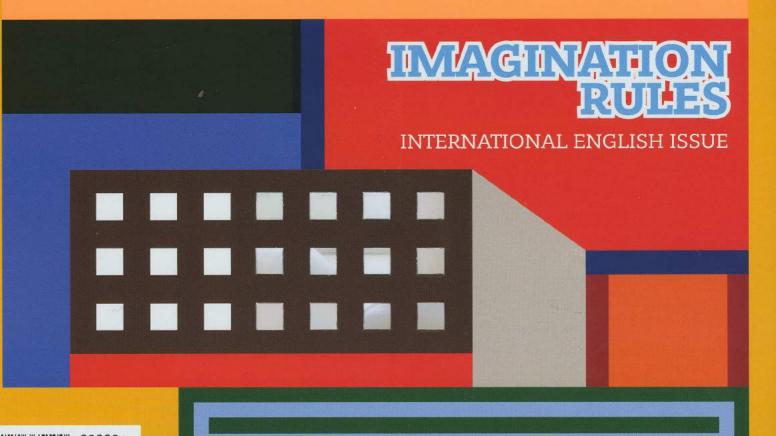
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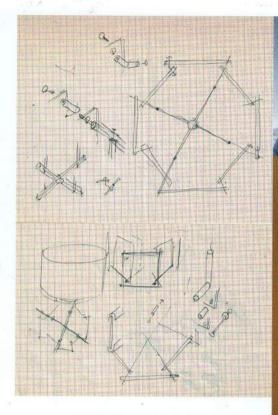
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GRUPPO A MONDADORI





LookINg AROUND PRODUCTION



PORTRAIT OF MANUEL
VALLS VERGÉS, SOME OF
HIS DESIGN SKETCHES
AND THE MVV LAMP,
DESIGNED IN THE 1970S
AND NOW IN
PRODUCTION THANKS TO
MARSET

The story of the MVV lamp now produced by Marset seems like a fable with a moral: beauty, at times, can find a way to fight back against obscurity. It all began when Pablo Twose, one of the partners of an architecture firm based

in Barcelona (TwoBo) and grandson of Manuel Valls Vergés – one of the most important Spanish architects of the period after World War II, for 15 years the partner of José Antonio Coderch, with whom he created outstanding projects like Casa Ugalde, near the Catalan capital –

found a box lying in a drawer that contained the parts of a lamp his grandfather had designed in the 1970s: sheets of different sizes, in various finishes, but also the iron structure, and a mold. Twose worked to further simplify the manual assembly of the lamp, and then turned to Marset so it could find its way onto the market. The Spanish company, becoming

REDISCOVERING DESIGN



a sort of bridge between different eras, took the original design – an octagon with overlaid sheets – and updated it, giving it a double skin: cherry for the outside, white on the inside, bringing out the quality of the light. The measurements are the same as those of the original, while the internal structure designed in iron is now in polycarbonate for greater lightness.

MVV – from the initials of Vergés – is a sober, rational, geometric object. The light is both direct, aimed downward, and indirect, spreading through the thin wooden layers. A project that defeats time, then, reflecting the constructive logic of a past age but also becoming perfectly, luminously contemporary. ■

Andrea Pirruccio