

Charlotte & Peter Fiell

**scandinavian  
design**

TASCHEN



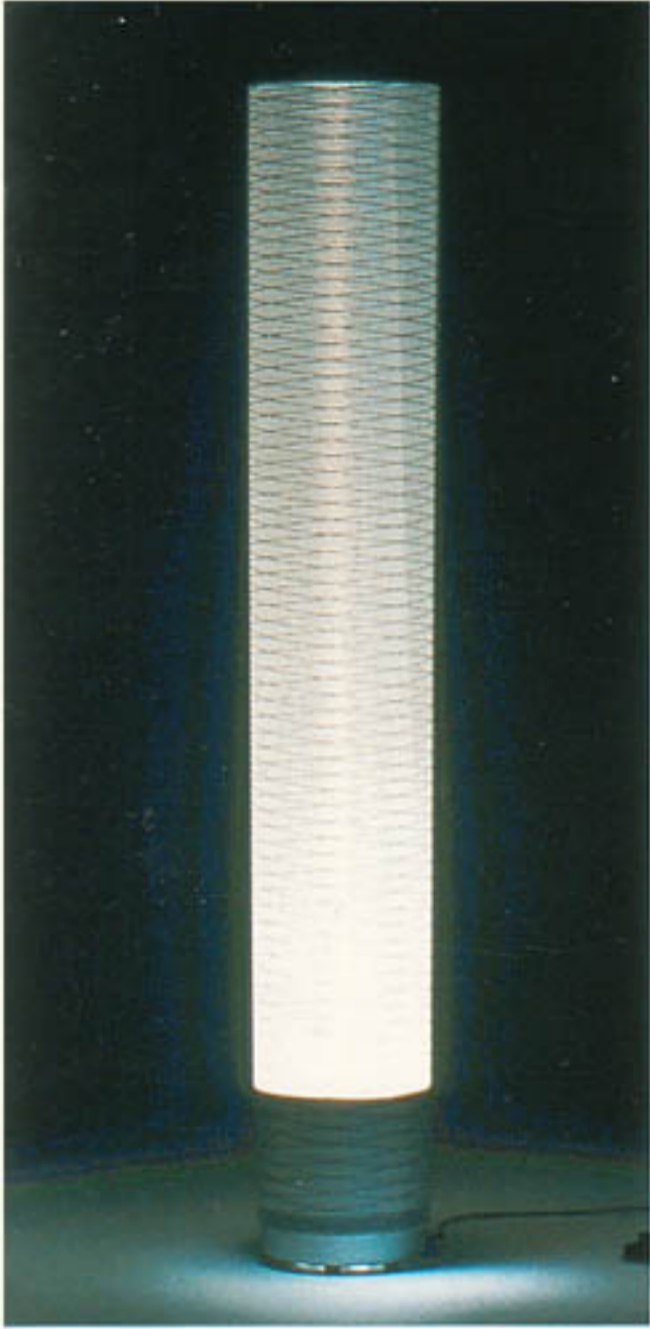
► Ilkka Suppanen, *Nomad* chair (limited edition/self-production), 1994

## ilkka suppanen (b. 1968 Kotka, Finland)



One of the leading avant-garde Scandinavian designers of his generation, Ilkka Suppanen studied architecture and design at the Polytechnic and the Taideteollinen Korkeakoulu (University of Art and Design) in Helsinki, graduating in 1989. He later completed his design studies at the Rietveld Academy, Amsterdam, in 1992 and the same year exhibited at the Fifth International Exhibition of Architecture at the Venice Biennale. In 1995 he began teaching at the Faculty of Design in Helsinki, and the following year designed the innovative *Airbag* chair for Valvomo, an inflatable chair/mattress for indoor/outdoor use that can be folded away or hung up when not in use. He also became a founding member of the Scandinavian design co-operative **Snowcrash** in 1996 and devised the group's trademark. He later teamed up with **Timo Salli** in 1998 on the design of the *Nomad*-house, which included the *Nomad* chair (1994) with an undulating felt sling seat. The *Nomad* project focused on how "people are driven by two conflicting impulses: the desire to move and the desire to stay. ... Nomadic designs are made from as few materials as possible. They disassemble easily and are readily transported. They must be

extremely functional." The same year he designed a sofa version of the *Nomad* chair for Cappellini known as the *Flying Carpet* – so called because of the way the seat section appears to hover in the air. Suppanen also received considerable recognition when he presented his work with *Snowcrash* at the 1998 International Furniture Fair in Milan. Utilizing materials that "demand and create new forms", such as synthetic fibres and copper cloth, Suppanen designs highly innovative product solutions that are practical yet possess a strong aesthetic identity. As an independent designer, he has worked for, among others, Cappellini, Proventus, **Nokia** and **Saab**, and was nominated by Ettore Sottsass for the Dedalus prize for young European Designer as one of the four most important young designers under forty. Believing that "design is like poetry: absolute and precise, with the minimal use of means employed to achieve the maximal result", Suppanen's nomadic and frequently multi-functional designs are primarily concerned with exploring the relationship "between the transitory and the timeless". In 2000 he became the creative director of *Snowcrash* while continuing to operate his own design practice in Helsinki.



His work has also been selected for the permanent collections of numerous institutions, including the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam and the Museum für Angewandte Kunst in Cologne.

△ Ilkka Suppanen, *Roll-light* floor lamp for Snowcrash, 1997

△ Ilkka Suppanen, *AV Rack* cabinet (self-production), 1998

▽ Ilkka Suppanen, *Game-shelf* table for Snowcrash, 1999

