

IIDA Pioneering Design: Pierro Lissoni

By Peter Carey



I am a fan of Italian design like most people, but when I was pressed to name a single building or a particular piece of furniture designed by Piero Lissoni, I have to admit I could not do it. I know his name of course. It is associated with manufacturers such as: Alessi, Boffi, Cappellini, Flos, Fritz Hansen, Kartell, and Poltrona Frau, but specific designs of furniture or accessories did not come to mind when I heard his name. Instead of one or two iconic images, I tended to associate his name with high quality and minimal style. At any rate, my anticipation of hearing him speak was rewarded by seeing a humorously self-deprecating individual who shared a perspective on design that few of us in New York get a chance to hear on a regular basis. He spoke at the second installment of the IIDA lecture series, Pioneering Design, at the 92nd Street Y in Tribeca.



Before I arrived, similarities were starting to occur between this evening and the last Pioneers event that featured Maira Kalman and Michael Maharam; it was raining. Getting to this inconvenient location is one thing, but getting there in the rain only exacerbates the situation. I noticed attendance was down and chalked it up to bad weather.



The event began with an acknowledgement to Brynne Johnson from Herman Miller. She has been a vital contributor to the Pioneering Design lecture series for the past eight years. Now she is stepping down to move to Florida and continue working with Herman Miller as a Product Application Specialist...

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