

# Bend Fold Crease

NTU International Design Studio Competition 2025/26

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## Context

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Production methods like laser cutting, water cutting, and plasma cutting are now easier and cheaper to use. This means small-scale manufacturing is now possible for more people in the design industry.

By designing products that fit the limits of these machines, setup costs are lower and less material is needed. This makes it easier for designers to start businesses or create high-quality samples to show potential customers without spending a lot of money.

## The Brief

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In this competition, you are asked to design a new desk lamp for the homeware market. You must use flat-bed production methods such as water cutting, laser cutting, stamping, or die cutting to make your design

## Specific requirements

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- Your lamp must be produced using sheet material no more than 595mm x 841mm in size
- Your lamp must use a standard E27 lamp holder

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Tim Defleur

### Supporting sessions

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#### **October – Introduction and Discover Phase (Online)**

This online workshop will explain the competition and give you tools to help you explore, research, and find good design ideas. By the end of the session, you should feel inspired, have a topic to focus on, and have some early ideas to research further

#### **November – Define / Develop (In Person)**

This full-day workshop will help you understand how to use visual research and develop ideas. You will learn how to observe carefully and use what you see to come up with creative ideas. You will work in both 2D (flat drawings) and 3D (models). By the end of the session, you will have better observation skills, some useful techniques, and a set of strong ideas to develop further.

#### **December – Develop / Inspire (Online)**

This online session is about reviewing your design ideas. In small groups, you will meet with a tutor who will help you look at your design carefully and check if it matches the goals of the competition. You will get advice and feedback to help you improve your design

#### **January – Project Submission (Online)**

Final submissions are due on 30.01.25. In addition to submitting your entry for the competition, participants may also choose to submit a portfolio. This optional submission will be reviewed by one of our academics from the product design team, who will provide tips and feedback to help you enhance your document if you're considering a university application.

#### **February – Night Light Exhibition**

Selected projects will be prototyped and exhibited at Nottingham Trent University as part of the Light Night festival 2026.

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### Project Deliverables

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#### 3 x digital presentation boards - each board must include the following:

Board 1 - Research Board (Images only, no text): This board should show images that inspired your design.

Use pictures only – no words.

Show shapes, objects, or materials that gave you ideas.

Include images that show colours, materials, and textures that have inspired your work

Board 2 - Process Board: This board shows how your design developed over time.

Include sketches, models, tests, and ideas.

Show your thinking from the first idea to the final design.

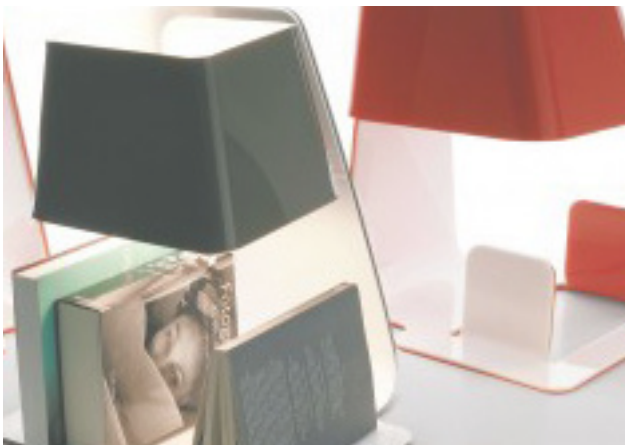
Take your time to organise this board clearly.

Board 3 - Final Design Board (“Hero Image”): This board shows your final design.

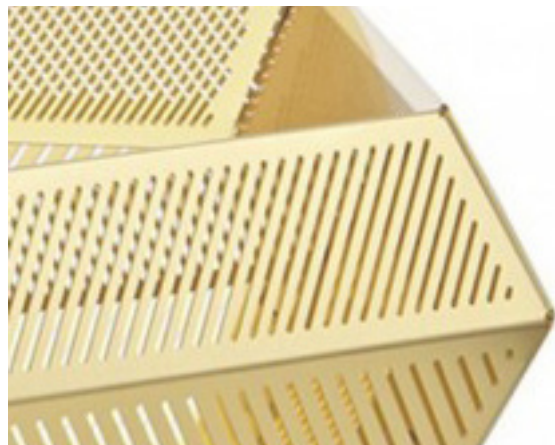
Use a photo of your model or a CAD visual of your design in its environment of use. Make sure the image clearly shows how big your design is (use a person or object nearby to show the scale)

#### Sketch model

1 x plain cardboard model produced at full size



Adriano Design



Tom Dixon