

PANZERI

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INSPIRED LIGHT

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INTRODUCTION

Panzeri has been in the lighting business since 1947. Today, the Italian company remains wholly owned by the Panzeri family who maintain a high degree of hands-on involvement in the design, manufacturing and global sales of a wide range of decorative, semi-decorative and technical light fittings. What distinguishes this range from that of numerous other manufacturers?

Importantly, Panzeri does not make 'glowing furniture'. Its full range of 70 product families is designed to be functional in terms of light distribution, glare control, efficiency and the use of high-end LED technology; the range does include a relatively small number of purely technical downlights as well as linear and track based lighting systems, but this is not where its major strength lies.

“ The Panzeri approach – a distilled simplicity of design supported by thorough engineering and quality of production ”

One of the company's guiding policies is to be independent of external sub-manufacturers to the greatest possible extent. Over its near 70-year existence, this has necessitated a major investment in tooling, extrusion capability, casting, laser cutting technology and development of customised components. This not only ensures an efficient supply and assembly chain but also provides total control over quality. This becomes clear when the fittings are examined in detail. Corners have not been cut and considerable design thought has been supported by use of high quality raw materials and workmanship. For example, to handle the 'Jackie' lamp is to gain immediate evidence of the investment into detailed design and engineering. The articulated joints of the support arm are solid and beautifully engineered, the weight of the die cast fitting is comforting and its range of finishes offers a solution for most interiors, these include titanium and a satin gold. The fitting comes in table, wall, floor and ceiling variants with a 5 step dimmable LED head and a touch on/off switch. Overall, this fitting exemplifies the Panzeri approach – a distilled simplicity of design supported by thorough engineering and quality of production. The desk version carries an indicative price of \$600.



Much of the Panzeri design is based on the use of Venetian sourced glass in multiple forms and sizes. An interesting example is the 'Candle' - an elegantly simple, 550mm long, 30mm diameter, pendant, borosilicate glass 'light-tube' transmitting light through a diffuse upper section which converts into a clear lower section. However, the transition from diffuse to clear glass is abrupt and it might be preferable to see this as graded or 'airbrushed'. The fitting comes into its own when used in cluster form as a contemporary chandelier in a commercial lobby or large residence; it is available with custom cord lengths and a variety of ceiling suspension plates. In keeping with almost all Panzeri fittings, the Candle is available with a LED light source but is also offered with a 48-watt halogen lamp. In view of the medium term phasing out of incandescent light sources, it is wise to use the LED version. A single unit is priced at \$300.



The design team takes much advantage of the miniature size, but powerful light output, offered by LED technology. The 'Zero' fitting plays this well. In a deceptively simple linear form, this unit spreads light across a wall or ceiling surface from LED sources which are totally invisible. Available in 520mm or 1020mm lengths, with a 75mm cross section, the fitting comes in three metal leaf finishes (gold, silver or copper) as well as white, chrome and metallised brown. This is an unassuming fitting which works efficiently in optical and technical terms; it offers a useful way to introduce indirect lighting to a space. The smaller unit comes in at \$550.

One of the striking aspects of the Panzeri range is the tactile quality of some of its fittings. This is experienced in the case of the 'Line' fitting which comes in suspended (680mm height) or floor standing (1850mm high) versions. In an exceptionally graceful, tapering, form this piece exudes simplicity and invites touch. It also provides a 40-degree beam of LED downlighting – perfect for suspension over a table, or halogen uplighting in the case of the floor version. By any standard this is a heavyweight – 2.1Kg for the suspended version and 10.5 Kg for the floor version. A wide range of metallic finishes plus a polished copper version complement the substance of the cast form. This is more than a light fitting; it is an icon which needs space to gain its full expression. Pricing starts at \$600.

Panzeri clearly enjoys circles. The strongly graphic 'circles of light' which comprise the flagship 'Silver Ring' and 'Golden Ring' series are however not just attractive shapes. These are pendant or wall/ceiling fittings with scale and purpose. In 800mm, 1200mm, 1800mm and 3000mm diameters, these rings offer an unequivocal spatial statement whilst also providing high quality upward and/or directly downward, dimmable LED driven, illumination through panels of high transmittance opal polycarbonate which, with the exception of the 3000mm diameter fitting, are cut as one piece and therefore show no joints. The large size of the illuminated surface area provides high levels of lighting with good visual comfort and an absence of glare. The walls of the rings are available, as standard, in acrylic white or hand applied gold leaf; other colours and finishes are available to order. A further variant on the circular theme comes in the form of the 'Planet Ring' series. These pendant, recessed, ceiling or wall mounted fittings are simple 'filled' circles which provide a downward, uniform, light distribution over a wide area from dimmable LED sources which can be provided with either a 'warm' or 'cool' colour temperature. The Ring series pricing starts at \$900.

Panzeri's commitment to the development of new and custom fittings powered by efficient energy saving LED technology is complemented by the fact that its factory is self-sufficient in energy terms, through the use of 500m² of photovoltaic panels.

The Panzeri collection carries a five-year warranty and, depending on shipping method, lead times vary between 6 and 12 weeks.



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LIGHT CULTURE

Panzeri's Australian distributor, Light Culture, "was established in 2007 by Ian Wiseman, the former Managing Director of Zumtobel Lighting in Australia. Since then, the company has grown to become one of Sydney's leading specification companies. Light Culture's ethos is that it only represents quality brands, whilst employing experienced and knowledgeable people thereby enabling it to offer great service. It aims to be the best whilst driven by a passion for lighting."

