

Hammerton has been leading the luxury lighting industry for three decades by working closely with designers to develop never-before-seen fixtures, from geometric and modern to rustic and intricate. >>

STORY JAMES FARRELL

LIGHTING THE WAY FORWARD

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF LUXURY LIGHTING WITH HAMMERTON

PHOTO PATRICIA EDIGER PHOTOGRAPHY



PHOTO JON COOK CREATIVE

Every bright idea starts as a small spark. Hammerton, the West's premier producer of high-end custom lighting, is no different. Founder Levi Wilson grew up sweeping the floors of his father's Salt Lake City iron shop, absorbing the trade. In college he studied architecture and started a side job fabricating a range of products for the design industry. "We made candlesticks and fireplace screens and, ultimately, lighting," says Wilson. This was the late 1990s, which saw a boom in the second-home market in the Intermountain West. Finding

that lighting fixtures with the artistry and scale to fit large mountain homes were not readily available, Wilson struck while the iron was hot and leaned into the lighting side of the business. "Designers were knocking on our door," says Wilson. "We took the typical manufacturing of metal and incorporated sculpting and organic motifs." >>

This custom chandelier from Hammerton's Heritage brand offers a great example of its artisans' ability to marry diverse materials, from wood to steel and blown glass.



This multi-pendant chandelier from the Parallel collection perfectly complements a room by Annie Santulli Designs. It is a perfect example of Hammerton's Studio brand, in which they adapt custom lighting pieces to form a more traditional catalog of repeatable and more budget-friendly products. >>

Hammerton's first product line, Log & Timber, was born. Complementing the grandeur of the mountains, the line featured beautifully detailed mountain motifs like pine branches and elk.

Over the years, Hammerton has expanded to include a wide range of aesthetics, from Old World classics like its Chateau line to sleek and modern pieces in its Element series, and everything in between. The company's guiding star is a spirit of collaboration

and invention. "Interior design is always evolving and changing," says Wilson. "Designers in the ultra-luxury market are constantly establishing new trends, developing the new look. We work closely with them to create what they're imagining." >>

LEFT: Inspired by a happy accident, this piece from the Blossom collection embraces the beauty of imperfection: no two fixtures are the same. RIGHT: Hammerton's team harnessed blown glass's natural unpredictability into a repeatable lighting fixture, developing new equipment and techniques.



PHOTOS FROM LEFT: MATTHEW NIEMANN; COURTESY HAMMERTON



Taking a radical approach to the idea of “custom,” Hammerton isn’t satisfied to just change a finish or a material on catalog lighting fixtures: Projects are routinely tackled from the ground up, starting by understanding the homeowners’ vision, then producing sketches and refining the design bit by bit. A dynamic team of engineers, blacksmiths and glassblowers allows Hammerton to realize anything an interior designer might envision. This often requires inventing entirely

new processes and combinations of materials to create unique, never-before-seen pieces.

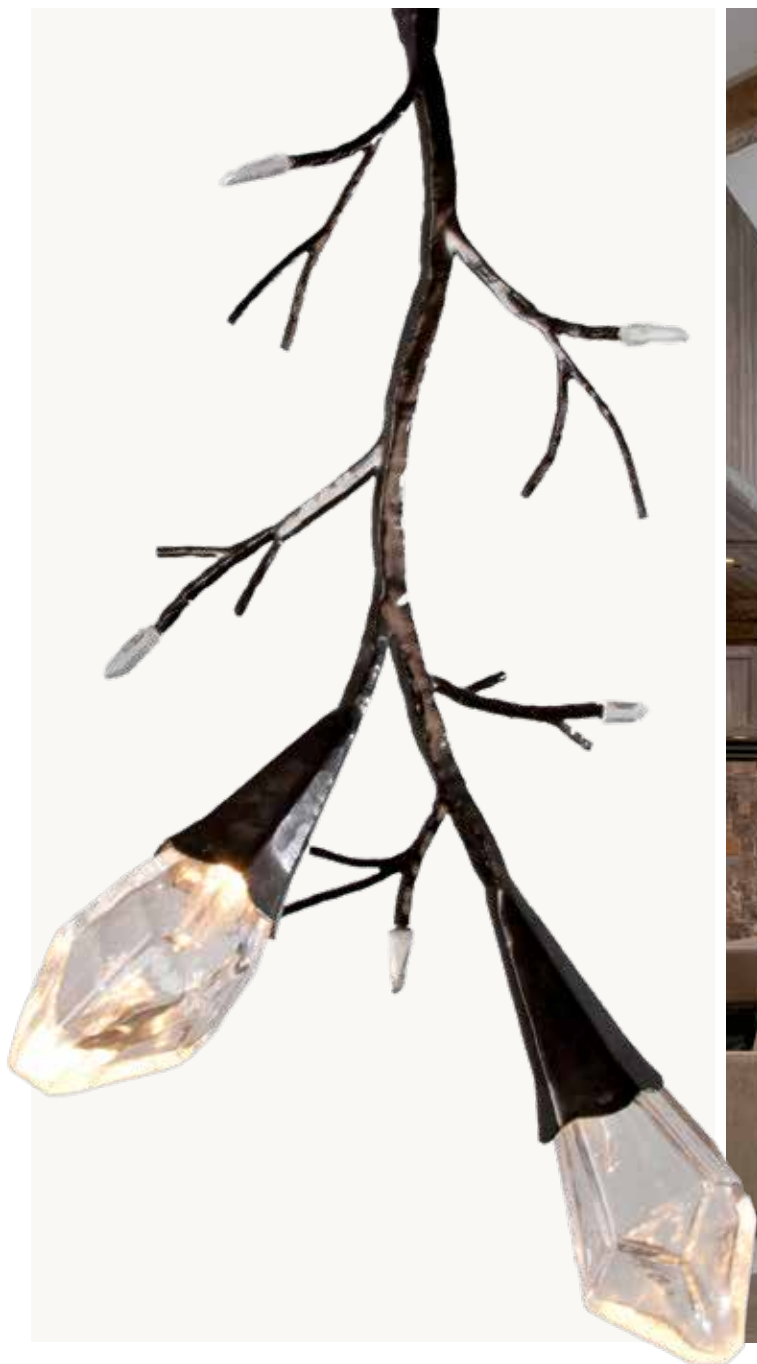
Through all these developments, the inspiration from the natural world is still present if you look closely. The Gem collection, for example, leverages the minute inconsistencies inherent in the glassblowing process to capture the beauty of raw gemstones. >>

Glass can be useful even when it’s broken: this Ring chandelier from Hammerton’s Parallel collection makes creative use of frit, or crushed glass, to beautifully diffuse light.

To celebrate three decades at the leading edge of lighting design, Hammerton has produced a gift book titled, fittingly, *Enlightened*. “A lot of what the book is showing is examples and showcasing these designers’ work,” says Wilson. “The lighting is important, but it’s about the entire design; it’s about all of the elements coming together.” Hammerton’s work not only brightens rooms—every chandelier and wall sconce is also the

result of creative engineering, artistic vision and superb craftsmanship, elevating the spaces they illuminate. Brilliance, in every sense of the word. ○

LEFT: Originally designed to complement a client’s Chihuly piece, this fixture would eventually grow into Hammerton’s Gem collection.
RIGHT: Hammerton’s Nested Ring chandelier is one of their most customizable pieces, designed to be easy to modify for any space.
hammerton.com



PHOTOS FROM LEFT: COURTESY HAMMERTON, SARGENT SHUTT PHOTOGRAPHY