

# Organic light by OMLED

Lighting designer and inventor Thomas Emde has founded a brand that hopes to improve everyday lives with OLEDs.





#### About Thomas Emde

Born in 1959 in Korbach, Thomas Emde studied art at the HbK Kassel and the HdK Berlin. He began his artistic career as a painter. His works have been exhibited in museums and art institutions all over the world. Light soon appeared as an additional element in his work and from 1999 Thomas Emde dedicated himself to artistic architectural illumination and the subject of light as a material. By 2012 he had implemented many large projects in Europe and the Middle East. OMLED is the brand of emdedesign GmbH, which he founded in 2013. OMLED introduced the world's first OLED light family in 2014 with products for everyday lighting purposes.

**For many years you have been a pioneer, designing luminous furniture and lighting-glass for facades and using these in various projects. Now you are bringing the world's first complete OLED light-family to the market. What is it that fascinates you about this light?**

**Thomas Emde:** I have been working with LEDs for over 16 years. However, the quality of light and the sustainability of OLEDs have been inspiring me for years, so I have had a lot of time to think about possible applications. In 2008 I had the idea of forming a sphere from a flat OLED and adding a screw base: the OLED bulb.

The OLED brings back what we have lost: pleasant, soft light for everybody. It gives us light that doesn't dazzle, lights that

don't burn us and technology that can meet today's demands for energy efficiency and sustainability.

**As an internationally renowned light artist you illuminated architecture before you founded your own lighting brand OMLED and the company emdedesign. What made you change direction?**

Over the last 15 years I have undertaken major international projects and made my contribution to the appearance of cities at night.

I often wonder how much light and what kind of light people actually need. It's not about having more and more light to illuminate our planet at night and to turn night into day. It's rather about a measured interaction with light as a valuable and vital resource.

And with OLED technology, following the banning of the conventional light bulb, I see the chance to give people good, energy-efficient and measured light once again, without having to rely on optics, diffusers and cooling elements.

In 2013 in Aachen I was able to see the lighting results of the new OLED panels for myself and I was inspired. My team and I then started to develop an entire light family with the panels and we founded the brand OMLED.





### What is special about your OLED light family?

We reduced all components to an absolute minimum when designing our light family, the most important thing is the light itself. We support the characteristics of the OLEDs by using only satinized and printed glass. This makes the light appear even softer. The OLED as a technical component recedes into the background; what is visible is a gentle and softly glowing glass surface of light.

The sensor-touch function to dim the lights and switch them on and off, and the specifically developed driver electronics, are integrated in the glass cover of the lamp. The OLED panels can be replaced effortlessly. This is a huge advantage over most LED lights.

Thanks to the quality of light, the minimalist, flat shape and the delicate suspension and fixation system, we have created an entirely new and visionary type of light.

Our suspension lamp s5 has been honored with the worldwide and prestigious Good Design Award 2014.

### Do you see OLEDs and LEDs as competitors?

No, on the contrary. Both technologies have their respective applications, they complement each other. The LED is a point-source spotlight that can illuminate surfaces over a great distance. The OLED, as a two-dimensional light source with excellent color rendering, can be used close to people and is able to illuminate the immediate environment without glare.

### Looking into your crystal ball, how do you see the future of OLEDs?

Initially the LED was merely a glowing indicator light on a dashboard – today it is a high-beam headlight. Its development has led to laws being changed and has pushed the affordable light bulb out of the market. The LED is on its way to being a monopoly.

Not least, given the above, I see the future of the OLED. We urgently need a complement to the LED. Based on this conviction, and together with partner companies, we have created an OLED patent portfolio for applications, products and processes, which we developed ourselves or purchased from other German companies. The future of OLED is in meaningful and useful products and applications.

OLED is a sensible, economical, reliable and extremely pleasant light partner. It doesn't dazzle, it warms without being hot and it doesn't exhaust the last of the earth's rare minerals. It is a fantastic, present light source.

Website  
[www.emdedesign.com](http://www.emdedesign.com)