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IDEAS

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**LEADING
LIGHTS**
THE WORLD'S
MOST BEAUTIFUL
SCONCES



Rossana Orlandi at her gallery with a chair by Nika Zupanc.

ROSSANA ORLANDI

Call her the queen of design, a grande dame, or a fairy godmother. Rossana Orlandi has been anointed with all of these labels. Since opening her shop, Spazio Rossana Orlandi, in an old tie factory in Milan's Magenta district in 2002, she has transformed the face of the city's contemporary design scene, thanks to her unwavering support for new talent.

The list of gifted designers she has discovered, or provided a platform for, is a long one indeed: Maarten Baas, Piet Hein Eek, Nika Zupanc, Jaime Hayon, and Studio Formafantasma have all risen to international prominence. She is especially proud of her longtime collaboration with the Spanish-born, Netherlands-based Nacho Carbonell. Never one to rest on her laurels, though, Orlandi is currently championing the Pop-

inspired creations of the young Italian designer Damiano Spelta.

During the city's annual Salone del Mobile, her shop has become so important a venue that more than 25,000 people flocked there this year to investigate her choice of new talents. In 2017, she'll ask people to pay an entry fee and turn the proceeds into a scholarship fund for young designers. "I love young people," she says. "I want to see them grow."