

1000 Lights Vol. 1

Eds. Charlotte and Peter Fell
TASCHEN £19.99/\$39.99

Like Taschen's popular *1000 Chairs*, *1000 Lights* is essentially a glorified version of an IKEA catalogue. The glory comes about because while *1000 Lights* is an index of objects, there is never any mention of prices (or much else, for that matter). In fact, in order to further emphasise that theirs is a publication about culture not commerce, the editors have sought to prove that they can't count at all. The cover boasts that *1000 Lights* contains over 1200 lights spread across two volumes (of which this is the first). Perhaps, in spite of their non-commercial principles, they've accepted the marketing potential of making the customer think they're getting extra for free.

After paying homage to Joseph Swann and Thomas Edison (the gods of electric light), the Fells trot off on an 80-year journey (1870–1959) that takes them from some truly terrifying Tiffany creations to genuine beauties by the likes of Prouvé, Hennigson and La Maison Desny. Lighting design is not a subject blessed with many affordable histories, so, if you're into it, this is the book for you.

