

OBJECTS OF ENVY

# Philippe Starck on Five Things He Wishes He'd Made

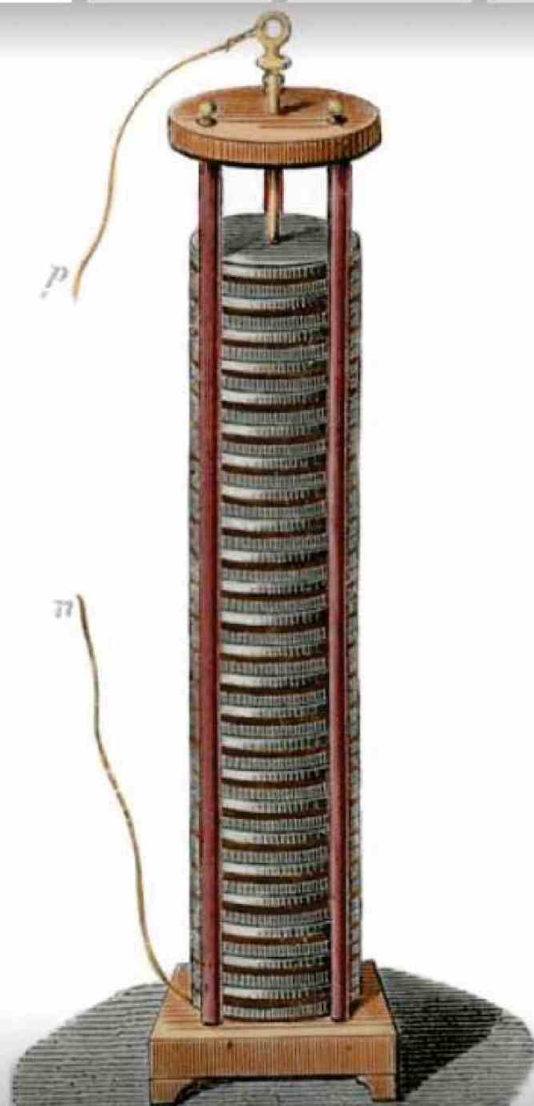


**Deborah Dunn**

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The designer and architect, 75, whose hotel project, Maison Heler, opens in Metz, France, this spring, wants us to consume less and find inspiration in products that actually change lives.

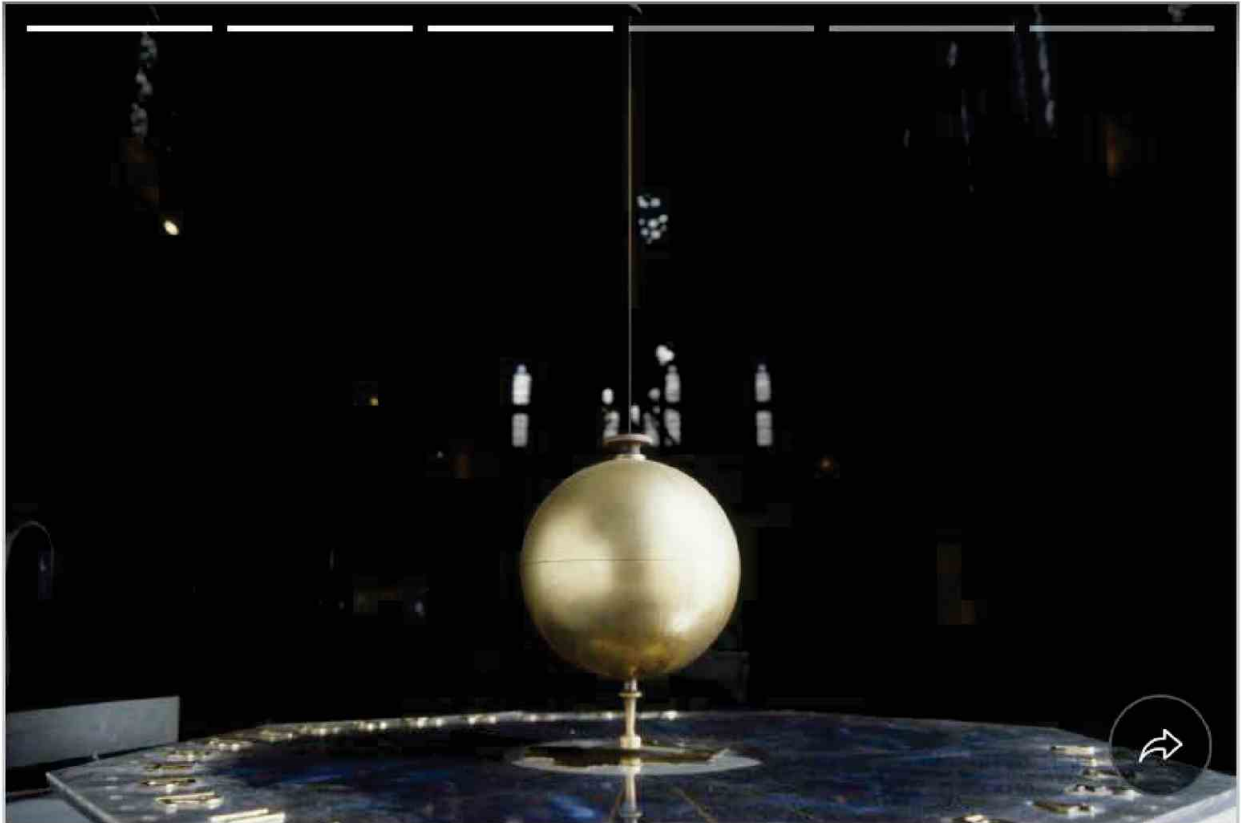




ELECTRIC BATTERY (1800) BY ALESSANDRO VOLTA



“Before the battery, you were trapped in your office or your home. The electric battery gave us freedom. It also gives life. For instance, you couldn’t have a pacemaker without it.”



**FOUCAULT PENDULUM (1851) BY LÉON FOUCAULT**

“In Paris [at the Musée des Arts et Métiers], you can see [the French physicist] Foucault’s pendulum. It’s this huge thing with just a rope and a weight, and it moves nonstop naturally. By this simple movement, [he] showed everybody that our world turned.”



ARTIFICIAL HEART (MID-1970S) BY ROBERT JARVIK



“It can bring someone back to life who would’ve surely died. It’s unbelievably creative and a strong symbol of human intelligence.”



**THE AIRPLANE (1890) BY CLÉMENT ADER OR (1903) BY ORVILLE AND WILBUR WRIGHT**

“The first planes were incredibly basic, incredibly minimalistic and incredibly intelligent. All planes are just an upgrade of this idea: There’s nothing new, just details on details on details. When my father was 15, he [built] his first plane in his mother’s garden. After that, he designed, developed and built his own planes. He also piloted and crashed them. Like me. I didn’t create my plane, but I pilot and I crash.”