

# EN 'LIGHTING' DESIGNS

## The Lighting Design Awards

The finest projects that had innovative lighting solutions, demonstrating high artistic achievement supported by technical proficiency, were honoured during 26th International Lighting Design Awards.

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*Photographs: Courtesy International Association of Lighting Designers*

It was the time to felicitate those great minds for their splendid jobs achieved through their leaderships and excellence in lighting design, who cultivated the universal acknowledgement and appreciation for showcasing the power of light in human life. The International Association of Lighting Designers (IALD) honoured the best lighting projects that display high aesthetic achievement backed by technical expertise during 26th International Lighting Design Awards held in New York on 6th May, 2009.

There were 19 projects representing from 11 countries that were honoured in the award ceremony. Out of these 19 projects, three entries earned Special Citations, 13 earned Awards of Merit and three earned Awards of Excellence. The chosen projects went through an additional round of judging keyed solely to the fulfillment of sustainable design principles. A panel of award-winning lighting designers, architects and interior designers reviewed the projects.

The highest point score winner across all categories, in addition to receiving an Award of Excellence for their project, received 'The IALD Radiance Award' for excellence in the lighting design. Speirs & Major Associates received this honour for the second straight year, this time accepted by Mark Major, for his Entrance & Atrium, 3 More London Riverside in London, UK.

Andrea Hartranft, IALD member and IALD International Lighting Design Awards chair, was thrilled with this year's recipients. "The IALD received more than 260 submissions in response to its call for entries – well more than we have received in prior years, surpassing last year's entry total by 100 projects! The winners of the 26th Annual International Lighting Design Awards reflect the international reach of this design competition, and the quality of design capable by this industry's practitioners."

The IALD strives to set the global standard for lighting design excellence by promoting the advancement and recognition of professional lighting designers. The accurate judging ensures that the IALD International Lighting Design Awards remains significant and reflects the global design environment. Over the years this program has become an industry benchmark, setting the bar in a position that requires adherence to the highest quality lighting design parameters.

## Rethinking 'Lighting' Design

Today's lighting designers are working in a time of rapid and revolutionary change. Our design brief is to develop lighting schemes that allow us to further enhance human life with illumination (including the two billion people who don't have electricity), while drastically limiting and ultimately stopping any further damage to our precarious ecological environment. Technology-speaking, there are many promising developments. Lighting has escaped the electric light bulb and is now flexible, portable, powdered, liquid and more energy-efficient. But technology alone will not solve our problem. As importantly, we must rethink how we use energy and light.

Nowadays we are inundated with a range of technology alternatives that allow us to create nearly unlimited lighting effects. However, while the individual sources may be more energy-efficient, with more and more lighting being installed, the net result is not. In addition, we are just becoming aware of the ecological consequences of over-lighting, which threatens to extinguish nocturnal species that play a critical role in the web of life sustaining us and our planet. I would urge that we pay special attention, not just to sustainable technology, but to sustainable practices.

I recently read a 1952 essay by Richard Kelly, who pioneered architectural lighting design in the United States during a time of great technical innovation. Even at this early stage of our discipline, he cautioned against getting caught up in "this overwhelming development of technical devices to create and control light". Kelly urged that we not lose sight of how a "device may be new, wonderful and ideal for its special purpose...but this purpose may be very small in the whole range of living activities".

The question we face isn't just about energy, it's about light. We need not only better lighting technology; we need more thought in applying that technology. We need to develop an approach to lighting that is geared not just to our eyes, but to our multifaceted lives. Lighting does more than just illuminate our surroundings. Light links our surroundings to us—to our psyche and our civic, poetic and emotional lives.

As lighting designers, we need to develop a sensitive, subtle and nuanced understanding of lighting—its visual effects and psychological affects. With this kind of consideration, I believe that we can design with less light luminous environments of function, comfort and beauty.

– Dr. Linnaea Tillett, PhD.

