IALD AWARD OF EXCELLENCE GOES TO CATHÉDRALE NOTRE-DAME DE STRASBOURG
LIGHTING DESIGN BY L’ACTE LUMIÈRE

PHILADELPHIA, PA USA, 10 MAY | Luminaries of the lighting profession gathered at the Crystal Tea Room on 10 May to honor the winners of the 34th Annual International Association of Lighting Designers (IALD) International Lighting Design Awards. Twenty-two projects from eight countries were on display – including interiors, monuments, façades, museums, and a residence. This year’s winners represent some of the most innovative and inspiring work found anywhere in the world of architectural lighting design.

The iconic Cathédrale Notre-Dame de Strasbourg in Strasbourg, France, with lighting design by L’Acte Lumière, took home an Award of Excellence, accepted in person by designer Jean-Yves Soetinck.

Considered one of the greatest masterpieces of gothic architecture, the iconic Strasbourg Cathedral revels in its newfound splendor. Six hundred LED projectors create warm accent lighting and highlights that contrast beautifully with the cast and modeled shadows, resulting in an overall glow and a peaceful illumination.

As a UNESCO protected site, the team from L’Acte Lumière was required to present, account for and share their choices with the validation committee, which included the building owner, funders and contracting authorities from the city, as well as the heritage foundation. Designers were required to complete a manifest stating their commitment to qualitative light as they revealed the architectural magnificence of this iconic Gothic cathedral.

After deep consideration of the sacred and iconographic facets and meanings of the structure, designers chose a precise and calculated balance of shadow and light to illuminate its presence. The brown and yellow sandstone comprised rich gradients of red and purples, corresponding to R8 - R9 CRI. This is a difficult color to render in high quality diodes, so designers selected a 2700K fixture with a short chromatic distortion to ensure quality light. This solution infuses a global ambient luminescence onto the structure, allowing the deep colors of the sandstone and its intricate details to be revealed.

Focal glow and highlights were used to enhance the architecture and reveal detailed layers of masonry, like illuminated text. Dynamic white LED luminaires, soft gradients, and subtle tints were used to create two distinct nightscapes throughout the whole of the elevation.

Fourteen km of cable and 400 light sources are installed on the building. The entire installation was completed without any drilling into the stone, only in mortar joints. Bespoke clamping sleeves, collars, fixture corsets and luminaires were painted onsite with an accurate color match to the stone. As a result of these considerations, the entire installation can be removed without any damage to the structure, which was a key requirement of the heritage committee. None of the luminaries, except those in ground, are visible from the exterior. This results in a balanced, quiet “chiseled light,” and a magnificent poetic glow of the building.

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The Strasbourg Cathedral is, as one judge wrote, “a beautiful balance of highlighting and shadow” and an “impressive technical solution.” A bridge between the earth and sky, an icon of darkness and light, a monument that ignites the imagination and reveals the passion of its builders.

The IALD Lighting Design Awards program, established in 1983, honors lighting projects that display high aesthetic achievement backed by technical expertise. A panel of award-winning lighting designers, architects and interior designers review the projects in a three-day, anonymous review process. Full information about the judging process can be found in the 34th Annual IALD Awards Call for Entries.

For complete details and high resolution photos of this year’s award-winning projects, visit iald.org/awards.

The International Association of Lighting Designers (IALD), established in 1969, is an international organization supporting a network of more than 1,300 lighting design professionals who satisfy its rigorous qualification process. Its members are distinguished by a unique blend of aesthetic and technical expertise, and operate at the highest level of integrity to create a better world through leadership and excellence in lighting design; to cultivate the universal acknowledgement and appreciation of the Power of Light in human life.

END OF ITEM

34th Annual International Association of Lighting Designers Awards Project Credits

Cathédrale Notre-Dame de Strasbourg
Strasbourg, France

Lighting Design
Jean-Yves Soetinck
L’Acte Lumière

Additional Credits
Conservation Architects
JCBA

Electrical Engineering
Lollier

Electrical Contractors
CITEOS

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