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GASHOLDER PARK WINS IALD AWARD OF MERIT
LIGHTING DESIGN BY SPEIRS + MAJOR

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.

Gasholder Park, a new attraction at London’s King’s Cross, with lighting design by Speirs + Major, took home an Award of Merit, accepted in person by Carrie Donahue Bremner.

Gasholder Park is a new public pocket park and event space in King’s Cross, London. This landscaped lawn is ringed by a mirror-polished stainless steel canopy, set within a historic cast-iron gasholder structure. Inspired by the gasholder’s circular form, Speirs + Major generated a holistic lighting concept based on a solar eclipse.

In an eclipse, the form of the moon is revealed by a soft corona of light. To emulate this effect, each of the canopy uprights are uplit from the inside with a narrow beam of cool white light revealing the architectural form in a composition the judges called “pleasantly restrained.” Light is reflected from the canopy back onto the footpath, creating a glowing “corona.” The illusion from a distance is that all light emanates from the corona, reinforcing the sense of enclosure. Although light levels are deliberately kept to a minimum inside the space, lighting integrated into handrails of steps and ramps helps maintain safety.

Once inside the corona, shadowplay and gentle animation enliven the experience of the space. Gentle cyclical cross-fading creates shifts, shadows and sparkle, fully immersing park visitors in the experience. The canopy lighting is subject to twenty minute control cycles, slowly fading from east to west, pausing in darkness inspired by the eclipse, and then a slow west-east fade back up. Combined with the deliberate asymmetry in the design of the uprights, this effect creates dynamic shifts in the shadows and inter-reflections from the polished surfaces, immersing both park and users in a celestial glow. Managed by an astronomical time clock, the timing of the light cycles also changes in accordance with the lunar calendar.

The uplighting of the polished canopy uprights presented the biggest challenge for the design team. The beam angle needed to be exceptionally tight to highlight the surface while limiting spill – any deviation from level and perpendicular placement caused the light to miss the surface entirely. A brushed texture allowed the light to catch the surface on the leading edge. Several mock-ups on and off site were conducted with the client and the architects to test different densities of brushing.

As part of the wider King’s Cross regeneration, the park serves as both landmark and destination, inviting visitors to an otherworldly experience of darkness and light.
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

GASHOLDER PARK
LONDON, ENGLAND UK

LIGHTING DESIGN
Mark Major, IALD
Philip Rose, IALD
Andrew Howis, IALD
Speirs + Major

ADDITIONAL CREDITS
ARCHITECTURAL ADVICE
Bell Phillips Architects

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
Dan Pearson Studio
Townshend Landscape Architects

ENGINEERING
Arup
Hoare Lea

MAIN CONTRACTOR
Carillion

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR
Michael J Lonsdale

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