TELEKOMBRIDGE IN BONN, GERMANY, HONORED WITH IALD RADIANCE AWARD
LICHT KUNST LICHT AG TAKES TRAVELERS OFF THE BEATEN PATH

PHILADELPHIA, PA USA, 18 MAY 2011 | Seventeen award winners representing architectural lighting design projects from nine countries comprise the winners of the 28th Annual International Association of Lighting Designers (IALD) International Lighting Design Awards, recognized at a presentation held 18 May at the Crystal Tea Room in Philadelphia, PA USA.

The highest point score winner across all categories, in addition to receiving an Award of Excellence for their project, receives the IALD Radiance Award for Excellence in Lighting Design. Licht Kunst Licht AG received this honor for the first time, accepted by Andreas Schulz, IALD, and Stephan Thiele, for the TELEKOMBRIDGE in Bonn, Germany.

The IALD Radiance Award winners do not know in advance of their Radiance Award-winning status – only that they should be present at the evening’s award ceremony. The excitement is palpable at the presentation, which also serves as a fundraising dinner for the IALD Education Trust.

In early 2009, Europe’s largest telecommunications company, Deutsche Telekom AG, built a pedestrian bridge connecting two office blocks across a major traffic pathway in Bonn. The deck of the bridge stretches over 74 meters, forming one grand curve above the busy road.

Licht Kunst Licht AG developed a dynamic lighting concept with interactive elements. The design accents the sweeping filigree architecture of the bridge and artistically translates the client’s slogan to pedestrians: staff members and the public can now “Experience the Connection” on the bridge. Another particularly clear reference to Telekom AG is achieved by utilizing its CI color, magenta.

“Not only does this bridge change lighting effects when it senses humans encountering it, but it also hits the mark in messaging from its telecommunication sponsor - connections, luminous pathways, speed and creativity,” stated one IALD International Lighting Design Awards judge. “The designers have skillfully applied their efforts at making a showpiece that engages the public and is technically successful.”

Supported by five slim steel columns, the slender footpath bridges the road in a smooth, generous sweep at seven meters above ground. The footbridge ends on both sides in 11-meter-high elevator towers.
Visibility on the bridge’s circulation area is provided by neutral white light from linear LED profiles. This lighting component is incorporated in all handrails. The strongly directional illumination of the light-colored flooring creates a strong contrast with the relatively low lighting levels of the surroundings. This evokes the impression of a floating ribbon, creating an architectural link between the two building complexes. A narrow beam and precise adjustment of luminaires eliminates glare to drivers when approaching the bridge.

Judges praised the project’s clear relationship to its surroundings. “This project clearly shows the influence of light in the public space, and the trend to create new urban structures that, by night, convey a powerful visual meaning,” praised another award judge. “The application of light becomes a manner of communication that fosters a social experience.”

Both longitudinal sides of the bridge are clad with a string of custom-made exterior-rated SMD LED video display modules seamlessly arranged to form one bespoke media screen. Due to their very high luminous density of over 7,000 cd/m², the media content is also visible during the day. At night the brightness of the LEDs is reduced to 30 percent of its maximum level. Great care was taken to fully integrate all control gears, power supplies and cabling into the section of the bridge slab so the LED modules were flush with the balustrade. All components are accessible from the bridge top for maintenance.

The towers are filled with light from neutral white LED profiles mounted to the top and bottom edge, grazing the gap behind the opal glass cladding, emanating a diffuse glow while lending visual depth to the architectural volume.

At night, passersby can interact with the towers and control a dynamic lighting installation. Double-pulse lasers at the façade’s bottom edge detect the position of a person walking by, prompting the control software to switch individual amber colored luminaires on and off. The result is the experience of a “light shadow” following the person who triggers it.

The IALD Lighting Design Awards program, established in 1983, honors lighting projects that display high aesthetic achievement backed by technical expertise. Additionally, projects can also be submitted for consideration in the sustainable design award category, which means the project undergoes 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 review the projects.

The International Association of Lighting Designers (IALD), established in 1969, is an international organization supporting a network of 800 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
28TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LIGHTING DESIGNERS AWARDS PROJECT CREDITS

TELEKOMBRIDGE
BONN, GERMANY

LIGHTING DESIGN
ANDREAS SCHULZ, IALD
FLORIAN AMANNT
STEPHAN THIELE
THOMAS MÖRITZ
LICHT KUNST LICHT AG

ADDITIONAL CREDITS
ARCHITECT
SCHLAICH BERGERMANN UND PARTNER STRUCTURAL CONSULTING ENGINEERS

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