MEMORIAL TO THE VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE HONORED WITH IALD AWARD OF EXCELLENCE
LIGHTING DESIGN BY LIGHTTEAM GUSTAVO AVILÉS

LAS VEGAS, NV USA, 4 JUNE 2014 | Sixteen award winners representing architectural lighting design projects from ten countries—representing an increasingly diverse group of award-winning projects for the IALD awards—comprise the winners of the 31st Annual International Association of Lighting Designers (IALD) International Lighting Design Awards, recognized at a presentation held 4 June at the Renaissance Las Vegas Hotel in Las Vegas, NV USA. Of the sixteen projects recognized, four entries earned a Special Citation, five earned Awards of Merit and seven earned Awards of Excellence.

Accepting the IALD Award of Excellence for the MEMORIAL A LAS VÍCTIMAS DE LA VIOLENCIA EN MÉXICO were Gustavo Avilés, IALD; Anna Sbokou, Junior Associate IALD; and Juan Carlos Martinez, Associate IALD, of Lighteam.

The Memorial to the Victims of Violence was created in recognition of the political and social turmoil resulting from the ongoing context of violence in Mexico. It is composed of a series of steel plates, some weathered and some reflective, placed on a water mirror. Light helps articulate these architectural elements as an allegory of that which is now absent in materiality, but forever present in our individual and collective memory.

“"The processional aspect of the lighting design leads and guides the visitor, revealing and reinforcing the message of the memorial,” one judge commented. “As the daylight fades, the focus strengthens, punctuating the forms and messages through the restrained use of light.”

Recessed linear LEDs were placed to suggest a promenade, guiding visitors and serving as a safety measure for spatial orientation. More symbolically, this promenade acts as a guide into deep reflection. In this project, light works in alchemy, fusing with the landscape, sound, texture and even scent. The lighting design inspires silence, bringing a pacifying effect of solace to the site.

Under this light, the materials engage in a dialogue with the visitor: The rust on the weathered plates speak about the passage of time and the scars that we bear from our past; the lit elements reflected on the water compel us to contemplate and reflect on our present; the interaction between light and the reflecting plates create an ethereal effect, representing a future that has a silver lining.

“A poetic integration of light sculpture and passion,” one judge praised of the project.

The metal plates are outlined with the light projectors creating subtle silhouettes. This ambiguity between solid plates, voids, and the water reflection is used as a mechanism to bring materiality to absence. The loss of lives, casualties of this ongoing conflict, is remembered by casting light to emphasize this absence.
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

31ST ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LIGHTING DESIGNERS AWARDS PROJECT CREDITS

MEMORIAL TO THE VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE
CHAPULTEPEC PARK, MEXICO CITY, MEXICO

LIGHTING DESIGN
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ADDITIONAL CREDITS
ARCHITECTURE
GAETA SPRINGALL ARCHITECTS

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