THE BROWN INSTITUTE FOR MEDIA INNOVATION AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY HONORED WITH IALD AWARD OF MERIT
LIGHTING DESIGN BY BURO HAPPOLD

NEW YORK, NY USA, 5 MAY 2015 | Fifteen award winners representing architectural lighting design projects from six countries comprise the winners of the 32nd Annual International Association of Lighting Designers (IALD) International Lighting Design Awards, recognized at a presentation held 5 May at Gotham Hall in Las Vegas, NV USA. Of the fifteen projects recognized, one entry earned a Special Citation, ten earned Awards of Merit and four earned Awards of Excellence.

Accepting the IALD Award of Merit for the BROWN INSTITUTE FOR MEDIA INNOVATION were Pei-Chun Yang and Gabe Guilliams of Buro Happold.

The Brown Institute at Columbia University is a unique academic experiment devoted to the co-evolution of technology and storytelling. The lighting effortlessly transforms to support the institute’s varied programmatic needs.

To embrace the interconnected concept of the space, the lighting designers selected a series of intertwining luminous elements to build a network of ambient light for the room. Each element in the network provides indirect lighting along its length with a direct punctuation at its end. Indirect lighting is provided by cutting the top half of the pipe away and embedding low voltage linear LED fixtures inside. At each end, the bottom ¾ of the pipe was removed, leaving a mounting tongue for the linear LED fixture. A diffusing acrylic cylinder is slid over the tongue and fixture, and fastened in place with a set screw.

Carefully designed wall panels expose or shield the windows, depending on the needed function for the room. Closed panels provide a blank canvas for media content; when backlit from the perimeter scrim, the panels add depth and richness to the space. Eliminating the overhead lighting and dimming the perimeter maximizes perceptibility of projected imagery, while reducing peripheral contrast and resulting eye strain.

The space’s installed lighting power density is 28% less than allowable by ASHRAE 90.1; furthermore, the ambient layers at the ceiling dim in response to daylight. All zones are created with a single fixture type: a long-life, off-the-shelf, linear LED product. Each fixture is magnetically held in place, making replacement simple and fast.

“The lighting of this space is playful, creative, functional, and inexpensive,” one judge observed of the project. “It transformed what could have been a very boring space into something dynamic and fun.”

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.

#MORE#
The International Association of Lighting Designers (IALD), established in 1969, is an international organization supporting a network of more than 1,200 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.

32nd ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LIGHTING DESIGNERS AWARDS PROJECT CREDITS

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