QUEEN ELIZABETH PARK HONORED WITH IALD AWARD OF MERIT
LIGHTING DESIGN BY SPEIRS + MAJOR

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 QUEEN ELIZABETH PARK was Mark Major, IALD, of Speirs + Major.

The lighting design for the southern part of the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park creates an enchanting and immersive experience. The challenge of the lighting brief was to support the joyful character of the park design, and ensure users would feel safe and secure and could continue to use the facilities of the park as natural light faded. The brief also asked that where possible, equipment from the London 2012 Games should be re-used.

The centerpiece of the lighting approach is the unique bespoke catenary system. A dappled light emits from ethereal moon-like spheres that are suspended over the pathway, and is framed by gently highlighted tree canopies to each side.

The interior of each sphere is painted with a color that gradually shifts in shades from blue to green over the length of the promenade – a painterly technique used to create a sense of depth of field and lend aerial perspective to the vista. In order to resolve complex technical issues, create the necessary light distribution, and save energy, a purpose built LED light source was developed to connect to the catenary system.

“I loved the playful nature of the perforated spheres floating over the pathway while providing provocative light on the path’s surface,” said one judge. “The poetic lighting effect was one of moonlight filtering through the leaves of trees.”

The lighting design of other elements of the park have been considered with respect to their purpose and desired character. Routes, hubs, open spaces and landscape elements are lit in a layered approach that provides amenity lighting where needed for safety and security.

Consideration was given to appropriate light levels, in general keeping them as low as possible, while using differences in the way light is applied to give visual cues that aid wayfinding. Deliberate areas of darkness create an appropriate balance in light and dark, keeping running costs down and supporting bio-diversity.

“These floating and elegantly fabricated lamp housings define a quiet path of dappled light, suggesting a quality of illumination of natural sunlight through a tree canopy,” one judge wrote of the project. “An otherwise flat and featureless ground plane comes alive through lighting alone. Residual light catches the edges of the tree canopy, creating a soft glow. The light fixtures themselves become an enchanting guiding path through the park.”

#MORE#
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 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.

**END OF ITEM**

**32nd ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LIGHTING DESIGNERS AWARDS PROJECT CREDITS**

**QUEEN ELIZABETH PARK**
LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM

**LIGHTING DESIGN**
MARK MAJOR, IALD
PHILIP ROSE, IALD
HIROTO TOYODA
TING JI
SPEIRS + MAJOR

**ADDITIONAL CREDITS**
ARCHITECTURE
MAKE ARCHITECTS

EXECUTIVE LIGHTING DESIGNER
MICHAEL GRUBB STUDIO

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS
JAMES CORNER FIELD OPERATIONS

MAIN CONTRACTOR + ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR
SKANSKA

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