U.S. NATIONAL LIBRARY ROTUNDA FOR THE CHARTERS OF FREEDOM HONORED WITH IALD AWARD OF MERIT
LIGHTING DESIGN BY AVAILABLE LIGHT

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 U.S. NATIONAL LIBRARY ROTUNDA FOR THE CHARTERS OF FREEDOM was Steven Rosen, IALD, of Available Light.

The task: to re-light the Rotunda for the Charters of Freedom, the permanent home of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. Critical mandates from the client included absence of measurable UV emissions, improved color rendering, multi-zone dimming controls, and minimal maintenance.

The primary layer of light upon entering the space is an even blanket of indirect light illuminating the dome, arches and vaults while delivering ambient light to the pedestrian level. The main architectural space where the Charters of Freedom are displayed is a half rotunda. To avoid deep and unnatural shadows in the dome coffers, the indirect lighting layer was directed mostly across the dome rather than grazing upward.

The documents themselves are exhibited in cases lining the perimeter. Pre-existing integral, archival-safe fiber optic spots were used to light the documents. To add drama and modulation to the space, designers accented two large murals by using spotlights mounted at the ledge, located at the spring line of the rotunda.

“Successfully hidden light sources and an illumination strategy that enhances and redefines the monumental architecture, historic documents, and murals,” one judge wrote of the project. “[This design is] an equally monumental execution of lighting design and technical achievement.”

After much modeling, interviewing, and investigation, designers selected a custom 2850K color temperature and a 93+ CRI. The new lighting provides a high spectral quality and precise beam control while only consuming 1,800W.

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

U.S. NATIONAL LIBRARY ROTUNDA FOR THE ChARTERS OF FREEDOM
WASHINGTON, DC USA

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