“MINNA NO MORI” GIFU MEDIA COSMOS WINS IALD AWARD OF MERIT + SUSTAINABILITY
LIGHTING DESIGN BY LIGHTING PLANNERS ASSOCIATES

SAN DIEGO, CA USA, 28 APRIL | Luminaries of the lighting profession gathered at the San Diego Air and Space Museum on 27 April to honor the winners of the 33rd Annual International Association of Lighting Designers (IALD) International Lighting Design Awards. Seventeen projects from eight countries were on display – including religious spaces, memorials, façades, and even a gas station. Taken together, the winners represent some of the most innovative and inspiring work found anywhere in the world of architectural lighting design.

The “Minna no Mori” Media Cosmos in Gifu, Japan, with lighting design by Lighting Planners Associates, took home an Award of Merit – their first of two for the evening – and an additional award for Sustainability.

The main feature of this two story multi-use facility is an open-floor, open-shelf reading room with large, suspended, umbrella-shaped “globes” that gently divide the space, incorporate daylight, and circulate air. The lighting design concept from Lighting Planners Associates aimed to create the illusion of being in a forest, connecting the visitor to nature through the lighting environment, while reducing primary consumption of energy by 50%.

Each hanging globe features a unique design, glowing beneath the gently rolling timber ceiling. Additional lighting includes daylighting, sphere and ring pendants in the globes, and disk-shaped pendants. The placement of task lighting near the globes gives the space vibrancy and coherence.

During the day, daylight is diffused from top lights creating a comfortable space with minimal energy use. When cloudy, the system can still secure 300-700 lux; but if needed, daylight sensors are activated and ring-shaped pendant uplights and manual task lighting supplement the area for 400 lux on the table tops. Throughout the design, varying combinations of temperature, humidity, and brightness create heterogenous spaces. This variance actually reduces the amount of energy needed to control and regulate the structure.

“This innovative approach to bringing daylight into the interior space allows for a tight integration of lighting with the architecture and interior design, and creates a great symbiosis of light and form,” one judge praised.

Disk-shaped, glareless downlights are wired together in several small groups, allowing the electric light to dim and reduce as daylight moves through the space. Task lighting is integrated into custom-designed furniture throughout the space. Where necessary, localized spotlights and pendants supplement ambient light at the first floor, adding sharpness to the area and reducing energy use.

“This project evokes a playfulness, a response to light and form, and a beautiful use of translucency and diffuse light,” another judge wrote. “A truly impeccable design.”

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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.

For complete details and high resolution photos of this year’s award-winning projects, visit iald.org.

The International Association of Lighting Designers (IALD), established in 1969, is an international organization supporting a network of more than 1,250 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.

33rd Annual International Association of Lighting Designers Awards Project Credits

“MINNA NO MORI” Gifu Media Cosmos
Gifu, Japan

Lighting Design
Kaoru Mende, FIALD
Mari Kobota, Associate IALD
Mikine Yamamoto, Associate IALD
Misuzu Nakamura
Lighting Planners Associates

Additional Credits
Architecture
Toyo Ito & Associates, Architects

Landscape
Mikiko Ishikawa
The University of Tokyo, Graduate School of Engineering
Department of Urban Planning, Mikiko Ishikawa Laboratory

Client
Gifu City

Furniture
Fujie Kazuko
Fujie Kazuko Atelier

M&E
Otaki Setsubi

Sustainability Consultant
Arup

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