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THE RITZ-CARLTON, KYOTO, WINS IALD AWARD OF MERIT
LIGHTING DESIGN BY WORKTECHT CORPORATION

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 Ritz-Carlton in Kyoto, Japan, with lighting design by WORKTECHT Corporation, took home an IALD Award of Merit, accepted in person by Yoshihide Kurose, Associate IALD and Atsushi Kaneda, IALD.

Kyoto, an international tourist city defined by its beauty, history and tradition, has its own lighting culture. The lighting design of the new Ritz-Carlton Kyoto, provided by WORKTECHT, was conceived as “the common light,” in response to the city’s sustainable beauties.

In the atrium, the main staircase is inspired by origami. The lighting expressed the beauty of the shadow of the lattice and kept the illuminance at the same time by lighting up the lattices one by one. Just inside the main entrance, a wall featuring a traditional Japanese pattern, “seven treasures,” gives guests a dramatic surprise upon arriving.

The building façade features rectilinear and simple shapes, providing a tense but dignified atmosphere. The color temperature is chosen to evoke candelight; each window is meant to remind guests of traditional Japanese oil lamps.

To express the Japanese beauty of neatness and concision, the lighting sources are indirect wherever possible. The result is elegant spaces blending light and shadow. During daytime in the tea lounge, shadows appear when daylight bleeds in. At night, different shadows appear, brought out by indirect lighting built into each lattice above.

The general concept for the hotel décor was “The Tale of Genji.” Glass art work in one part of the hotel forms a bamboo forest described in the story. Lighting designers chose a changeable color temperature, allowing guests to forget about the real time outside and become lost in the forest. In other parts of the hotel, integrated floor lights are used to create drama, or custom-designed LED wall washers create compelling shadows on sculptural wall art.

“This is another Japanese project where the lighting is thoughtful and attuned to the culture and tradition of the locality,” another judge wrote. “The scheme realizes the main elements of the brief the client must have given: luxury and subdued elegance.”

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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

The Ritz-Carlton Kyoto
Kyoto, Japan

Lighting Design
Yoshihide Kurose, Associate IALD
Atsushi Kaneda, IALD
Yusuke Kobayashi
Worktecht Corporation

Additional Credits
Client
Sekisui House, Ltd

Architectural Design
Nikken Sekkei Ltd

Interior Design
Remedios Studio
ILYA Corporation

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