LAKEVIEW PANTRY ON CHICAGO’S NORTH SIDE RECEIVES IALD AWARD OF EXCELLENCE
LIGHTING DESIGN BY LUX POPULI BRINGS DIGNITY TO A CHARITY SPACE VIA QUALITY LIGHT

CHICAGO, IL USA, 9 MAY | Luminaries of the lighting profession gathered at Chicago’s trendy Revel Fulton Market on 9 May to honor the winners of the 35th Annual International Association of Lighting Designers (IALD) International Lighting Design Awards. Seventeen projects from eleven countries were on display – including interiors, workspaces, museums, hospitality sites, and a place of worship. This year’s winners represent some of the most innovative and inspiring work found anywhere in the world of architectural lighting design.

The design of the Lakeview Pantry in Chicago, IL USA, with lighting design by Lux Populi, took home an Award of Excellence, accepted in person by Dan Wheeler.

The Lakeview Pantry is one of the longest operating food pantries in Chicago, serving low income people in need of nutrition. The facility provides groceries and basic social services with the added mission of lending dignity and a quality environment to the community it serves. On extremely limited means (a budget of $4 USD per square foot and ultimately delivered at $1.75/square foot), lighting designers sought to create the feel of a typical branded retail environment, café, or restaurant. Clients feel welcomed in the space by happy, cared-for volunteers, and donors see the mission embodied in the physical and social environment.

Collaborating with the trust, architects, graphic designers, and contractors, the lighting design team created signifiers of branded retail to give clients pride: accenting, uplighting, clean ceilings, and concealed coves were some of the chief strategies employed. Efficiency of operation was critical; only six formal luminaires were used besides strips and bare LED lamps. The team evaluated costs using two metrics (cost/lumen and lumens/watt), and occupancy and photocell controls were utilized.

In the client-facing space, indicators of a chic retail environment were created through cost effective solutions. Uplighting provides general code-compliant illuminance, while accenting at the counter emphasizes human engagement. Well-lit greeters welcome clients, directing them to brightly lit rear walls. Uplighting from behind a plywood bench gives a sense of design, raking a textured acoustic wall.

Behind, incoming deliveries are sorted and stored in a safe, well-lit environment under shatter-proof fluorescents, smoothing the contrast from exteriors to the cold storage within.

In volunteer and admin spaces above, a “lit ceiling of light” emerges from a series of fluorescent strips set on exponential spacing as the ceiling tapers down to 6’8”, confounding perspective and connecting light from windows at each end and new skylights between. The lightwells are painted blue and contain blue fluorescents giving a calm “skylight” effect, setting off cove- and up-lighting from fluorescents concealed by ducts and occasional MDF shelves.

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Fugitive light is minimized at each skylight and window, though a small lit perimeter at the storefront is maintained to contribute to safe streets and a waiting space.

The assembly of many complex functions feels coherent and well proportioned, and although lighting interventions are not always concealed, they feel purposeful. More a creative use of the craft of light, innovation of application and detail achieves the building’s part in the institution’s function.

“It has the greatest effect for visitors at the lowest cost,” commented one judge. “This is the mainstay of lighting design.”

The IALD Lighting Design Awards program, established in 1983, honors lighting projects that display high aesthetic achievement backed by technical expertise. A panel of award-winning lighting designers, architects and interior designers review the projects in a three-day, anonymous review process. Full information about the judging process can be found in the 35th Annual IALD Awards Call for Entries.

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

The International Association of Lighting Designers (IALD), established in 1969, is an international organization supporting a network of more than 1,400 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

35TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LIGHTING DESIGNERS AWARDS PROJECT CREDITS

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE
Lakeview Pantry
Chicago, IL USA

LIGHTING DESIGN
Thomas Paterson, IALD
Laura Arroyo
Lux Populi S. A. de C. V.

ADDITIONAL CREDITS
Architecture
Wheeler Kearns Architects

Structural Engineering
Enspect Engineering

General Contractor
Friedler Construction

MEP
Building Engineering Systems

Owner’s Representative
IFF

Graphic Design
JNL Design

Photography
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