STORY WALL IN ESKILSTUNA HONORED WITH IALD AWARD OF MERIT
LIGHTING DESIGN BY ÅF LIGHTING REINVENTS DRAB CITY TUNNEL

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 Story Wall in Eskilstuna, Sweden, with lighting design by ÅF Lighting, took home an Award of Merit, accepted in person by Kai Piippo, IALD, on behalf of the ÅF design team.

The municipality of Eskilstuna, Sweden requested a lighting solution that would turn a dark pedestrian tunnel into a more inviting place, while keeping costs to a minimum. The result is a carefully chosen lighting design that succeeds in making the tunnel brighter, safer and more fun for people passing through. Approaching the tunnel, you might notice nothing more than the well-lit walls along the pedestrian path. It isn’t until you step inside the tunnel that you see how the lighting creates a unique and colorful shadow show that mimics your movements as you walk, run, bike or dance through.

While keeping to a low budget, the lighting design had to work with existing white tiled walls and grey concrete pillars, and designers couldn’t change, rather needed to complement, the yellow-toned light cast by the existing luminaires. The result has turned the tunnel into a local attraction that promotes playfulness, creativity and a sense of community for the citizens. Four months after installing the new lighting, the municipality reported that the tunnel has been used more frequently than before.

One of the main goals of the design was to improve the citizen’s everyday impression of their city by presenting a happy, colorful installation accessible to everyone. By turning the tunnel into an attractive meeting point, the unique installation also promotes community and interaction among the citizens.

The technique used to create the lighting is easy, even obvious, but extremely effective: red, green and blue luminaires cast colored shadows from each passerby onto the white walls. In combination with their distance from the walls, visitors’ movements affect the appearance of the space. The products used are single color fixtures, placed evenly between the pillars, to create shadows that are as sharply defined as possible.

As one judge wrote, “dozens of people who would have passed through this space daily - without thought for their surroundings given a more typical lighting solution - now find cause for delight and curiosity and interaction because of the thoughtful use of light.”

MORE
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 MERIT
Story Wall Eskilstuna
Eskilstuna, Sweden

LIGHTING DESIGN
Kai Pippo, IALD
Francesco Guastella
Seren Dincel
Tobias Olsson
Niklas Gripenstam
ÅF Lighting

ADDITIONAL CREDITS
Client
Karin Ermegård
Eskilstuna Municipality

Electricians
Vattenfall AB

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