

第34回街歩き -A Roppongi Christmas- Comparison of Tokyo Midtown and Roppongi Hills Christmas Illuminations 2007.12.10

Winter is a cold and quiet time where people gather indoors, drink hot cocoa or coffee, and maybe reflect on the year before and ahead. But Christmas in the city always gives us something to get out and about and see? Christmas illuminations. The Lighting Detectives gathered in Roppongi to shake off some of those winter blues and experience the new trends in Christmas illuminations. We tackled the big two: Roppongi Hills and Tokyo Midtown.



■ Tokyo Midtown

The theme for Tokyo Midtown was “Someone is always Santa Clause for someone else;” a lovely theme, but not very decipherable from the illuminations. A quick overview includes a sparkling rendition of the aurora borealis in the Plaza, a colorful display of stained glass in the Galleria, and a brilliant blue Milky Way in the Garden. In the image of the northern lights a dangly curtain of waves and motion was hung in the plaza. The installation seemed more crystal-like as the lights were mostly white colored. In the Galleria the Kiriko tree of cut stained glass continually changed colors and seemed to gather the most attention. At 8m tall it was quite impressive and visible from the far end of the garden. The ocean of little blue lights that covered most of the grassy area in the garden was actually the Milky Way with swirling stardust and shooting stars, all accompanied by music. Now this might have been a great place to have that cup of hot coffee and reflect, but it was just too bright and unsettling for my taste. Although most of the lights used were LED`s, the eco in me knows that there has to be a wiser use of light and definitely something friendlier on the eye.

Blinding Blue Milky Way at Tokyo Midtown

■ Roppongi Hills

From here we left the rookie venue behind and wandered over to Roppongi Hills with a simpler, but equally mysterious theme of “Artelligent Christmas.” The 66 Plaza was decorated in red; red lights for the trees, red spotlights, a red Christmas tree, and red “candlelight” in the Japanese garden. It was a new experience, as most Christmas illuminations tend to be white or orange. Some on the walk thought all the red was overkill, but I figured a red filter added to the Spider spotlight in the plaza would top off the ensemble and create interesting color shadows. Up on the 52nd floor the Tokyo City View observation deck was decorated for the holiday season with a variety of lighting elements; all of which reflected in the glass windows, but didn't disturb the view too much. Whether Christmas or not, this view is spectacular and always generates a tingle of excitement.

As the 20 plus group of us trooped through these two complexes and invaded the privacy of the many couples that had come to uh and ah, I realized that simple is best. The display of lights for Tokyo Midtown`s 1st Christmas was very explosive and at times blinding, but I think I prefer a more modest expression amongst all the pizzazz that comes with life and this commercialized holiday season. The unified red front of Roppongi Hills was more my style. The simplicity of a one-color scheme left a bigger impression and less “messing” definitely results in a more elegant show. Although, it is unfortunate that something more unique and trendy wasn't designed for this popular area. Oh, and it is probably better to go with that special someone, rather than a group of analytical lighting detectives, spoils the holiday mood!

(Rachel Nakayama)



Crystal-like Aurora Borealis



Kiriko Tree at Tokyo Midtown

□ Roppongi Christmas Illumination Comparison

Tokyo Midtown	venue	Roppongi Hills
"someone is always Santa Clause for someone else."		"artelligent christmas"
crystal-like aurora borealis multicolored stained glass blue milky way	color	"artelligent red" "snow & blue " perimeter
stained glass "kiriko tree"	main tree	red cube "illumination tree"
aurora borealis & milky way	installation	mori tower flower petals & snow fall
orange & white LED lit trees	perimeter	white & blue LED lit trees
bright blue LED milky way	garden	soft red candlelight
crystal-like aurora borealis white & orange lights on trees	main plaza	red spotlights on mori tower with flower petal & snow fall installation "thank you" red LED lights on trees
elevated view of milky way from pedestrian bridge	birds-eye view	"sky-illumination" over tokyo from 52 F of mori tower



"Sky Illumination" at Mori Tower



Lighting Detectives on Assignment in Roppongi Hills

Transnational Tanteidan Forum 2007 in Copenhagen

2007.12.4

@The Royal Academy of Fine Arts,
School of Architecture, Auditorium 2

2002年に東京から始まった世界照明探偵団フォーラムも今回で6回目を数えました。クリスマスイルミネーションが街に灯り始めた、12月のコペンハーゲンが今回の会場です。3日間の日程でフォーラムの他、コアメンバーの運営会議や街歩き、郊外へのエクスカーショなどのプログラムをこなしました。



パネルディスカッションの様子

今回のフォーラムのテーマは“The Lighting of Public Spaces: PARKS, PLAZAS, and PROMENADES”。これまで様々なパブリックスペースの照明を取り上げてきましたが、今回はその最終章といった位置付けです。東京からは面出団長がプレゼンテーションを行い、その他ニューヨーク、ハンブルグ、シンガポール、ストックホルム、ベオグラード、そして今回新たに加わったベルギーのメンバーも含めて7都市からの発表がありました。午後2時。フォーラム前に会場の外に出ると、足元に低い太陽がもたらす建物の長い影が伸びて、自分が北欧にいることを実感します。会場に

はコペンハーゲンの他、近隣ヨーロッパからの参加者も含めて200名を超える参加者が集まり、盛況となりました。

東京のプレゼンテーションを組み立てるのに、まず大きな疑問として持ち上がったのが、果たして東京の公園で夜の景色として皆に伝えたいようなものがあるのだろうか？ということ。プロムナード（人が歩くために計画された通り）はどうだろうか？プラザに至っては、人が集まり憩う場所など東京のどこにあるのだろうか？明らかに欧米の都市計画とはその内容を異にする東京の街の成り立ちから、その照明環境を調査・分析しました。



フォーラム会場には200名を超える人が集まった



照明探偵団の活動を紹介するパネル展示



フォーラム後に行われたレセプション



ルイジアナ美術館のカフェにて打ち合わせ

私たちがまず注目したのが渋谷のスクランブル交差点。駅前に直結して複数の大型スクリーンが常に明滅を繰り返し、その下で多くの人が行き来し交差する様子は、まさに東京のプラザと呼べるものなのでは無いだろうか。また、六本木ヒルズや東京ミッドタウンなど、新しく開発される複合施設にも必ず憩いの場が設けられており、都市の中に意図的に作られた場所ではあるけれど、これもプラザには違いないだろうと考えました。一方で神社仏閣には必ず広場があり、古くから祝祭空間として使われてきたことなど考えると伝統的プラザと言えます。お祭りの提灯が境内に連なる様子は、どこか袖看板が続く繁華街の照明環境に通じるものがあり、将来のプロムナードを考えるヒントが隠されているかもしれません。

他の都市からのプレゼンテーションも、ニューヨークのたくさんの公園のバリエーションやベオグラードの想像以上に煌々と白く照らされたプロムナードなど、多くの写真から世界のパブリックスペースの今を垣間見ることができました。

フォーラム前日には地元の探偵団メンバーも参加して、メインストリート・ストロイエなどを中心に街歩き。真冬の街歩きは東京でも経験していますが、やはり凍て付くコペンハーゲンの寒さは別格。おまけにこの日は雨風も加勢して、やや過酷な街歩きとなりました。当然ながら窓辺に灯るあかりや、ツリーのイルミネーションはどれも温かな白熱系が主流で、自然と人が求めるあかりがそこにあるだけなのだと感じました。

今回のフォーラムには北京やベルリンからの新しいメンバーも参加するなど、年々世界への広がりを見せています。2008年は9月にセルビアの首都・ベオグラードでの開催が予定されています。TANTEIDANを合言葉に、世界へ広がる照明のフィールドワークに是非これからも注目して下さい！

(田沼彩子)



街歩きの前、市庁舎前での集合写真

PLDC 2007 – London

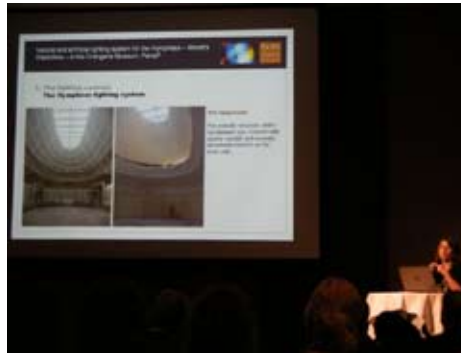
2007/10/25-27

Gaurav Jain

From 25th to 27th October 2007, London was the venue for the 1st Global Convention for Professional Lighting Design. Lighting Design, being a relatively new profession has had very few parallels to the kind of overwhelming response that was generated during this convention. It witnessed an audience of 1133 participants from over 50 countries, each with diverse backgrounds but all with a deep interest in the field of lighting design. I was present to attend this event to get an update on the current issues that are circulating in the lighting industry and also to see the exciting city of London.



The launch of the convention was addressed by Joachim Ritter, editor-in-chief of PLD magazine and Fellow Member of PLDA



The presentation of the lighting scheme for the Orangerie museum by Anne Bureau



A presentation on lighting visualization techniques

PLDC 2007 was organized by PLDA; Professional Lighting Design Association (formerly known as ELDA; European Lighting Designers Association) and Via-Publishers (publishers of PLD magazine) with the support of sponsors from the lighting industry. Chief sponsors included lighting manufacturers like We-ef, IGuzzini, Fagerhult and Zumtobel. PLDA has been very active in promoting awareness about the profession, and is a voluntary federation of lighting designers and lighting consultants who have a well established international presence. These members through the various activities of PLDA try to establish a sound reputation for the profession right from education to industry and professional practice issues. Principal activities include conducting international workshops on lighting design, conventions and seminars and support for lighting education in the institutions that are taking up lighting design as part of their curriculum. PLDA conducts a lighting workshop annually in Alingsas (Sweden) with the assistance of the city council.

The carefully chosen program of the conference in London catered to an intensive exchange of ideas in the fields of lighting research and professional practice.

Key classification of conference topics were broadly:

Lighting Application Research / Lighting Application Case Studies / Professional Practice Issues / Health and Well-being

Principal Speakers included well known lighting designers and researchers, upcoming lighting professionals and students who are passionately pursuing this field of study. I was particularly keen to listen to Mr. Paul Gregory from Focus Lighting, USA; Mr. Mark Major from Speirs & Major Associates, London; Mr. Kevan Shaw from Kevan Shaw Lighting Design, Edinburgh, Mr. Derek Porter from Derek Porter Studio, and Mr. Roger Narboni from France. The conference also had distinguished keynote speakers like Rick Joy/USA and Piero Castiglioni/Italy.

All the speakers spoke about their work and its relation to light – about their experiences and their projects through they came to appreciate light in both its tangible and intangible forms. I particularly liked the presentations of Mr. Derek Porter who talked about his work inspiration and evolution from abstract representation; Mr. Kevan Shaw talked about current concerns of usage of LEDs by lighting designers; Mr. Piero Castiglioni who mentioned that often lighting designers make the mistake of submitting too many options for a lighting scheme thereby diluting the lighting idea.

Some presentations discussed case studies – I was impressed by the project presentation of ‘The Orangerie Museum’ by Anne Bureau who explained at length about the careful and methodical approach to light up Claude Monet’s famous large sized ‘Water Lilies’. Architects who are fascinated by light such as Rick Joy talked about the air and natural light quality of the desert where he usually does his projects. The convention also had self-running 10 minute power-point ‘poster presentations’ on various topics on lighting by conference attendees.



The London eye – as seen from the river cruise on the Thames

For the first time in a lighting conference, a lot of emphasis was also given to the impact and knowledge-sharing of the behavior on human health. This was a totally new area of lighting – many of us are not completely aware of the consequences of the usage of light. For this special and exclusive area of study, the contents were compiled by the International Light Association, ILA, an international association of health professionals for light and the effect it has on humans. I learnt of some interesting facts such as monochromatic light is very beneficial to humans if the right wavelengths are transmitted.

To coincide with this 1st global convention of lighting design, PLDC also offered attendees the invitations to the opening of the Richard Kelly exhibition at the RIBA (Royal Institute of British Architects) building. This has been sponsored by the lighting fixtures and controls manufacturer ERCO from Germany, and is a travelling exhibition

that showcases some of the pioneering lighting designer's best works over the years. Richard Kelly practiced in the 50s and I was amazed to see that most of works were so revolutionary in those days. He was the pioneer who coined the words 'ambient lighting', 'focal glow' and 'brilliance' which have become standards for all lighting designers today. The exhibition consists of 37 framed works and photo-panels which display original drawings, prints and photographs from the Richard Kelly archive. The works were displayed highlighted the philosophy of the famous American architect and lighting designer, especially his exemplary approach to building illumination, day lighting and fixture design.



From the bridge, a panoramic view of the building

Towards the close of the convention, PLDC conferred awards for excellence in the lighting design profession to lighting designers and organisations for their contribution to the lighting profession. Noteworthy among the recipients was Prof. Dr Heinrich Kramer – who won a lifetime achievement award for his pioneering works and dedication to the profession of lighting design. The City of Alingsås in Sweden was also awarded for its encouragement and support to create awareness about light through the annual lighting workshops held every year in the city. The PLDC convention also hosted an exclusive manufacturers' exhibition, which showcased innovative light tools for the attendees of the convention. One of the manufacturers, We-eef organized a river cruise for the attendees of the convention along the river Thames. It was a great party!



Self-running powerpoint presentations by some of the attendees



Live Band playing in the cruise party for the guests!

At the close of the 3 day convention, a declaration prepared by PLDA was made on the status and future of the lighting design profession. This declaration highlighted the need to recognize lighting design as an established profession by individual governments and all international bodies dealing with the recognition of professions and independent disciplines.

To sum it up, I really enjoyed the convention and all the coinciding events that went along with it during this period. It was a very knowledgeable experience and I got to meet many people who are actively working with light from different parts of the world. When people talk about lighting, they usually have the same opinions on the appreciation of light and the fundamentals of lighting design. Its only their approach and the end-results of projects that create such an interesting variety of lighting results. The city of London was also a treat to experience, with its rich history and culture. I thought it was the perfect venue for this 1st Global Convention.

(Gaurav Jain)

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