

[tips]

IALD Award Winners

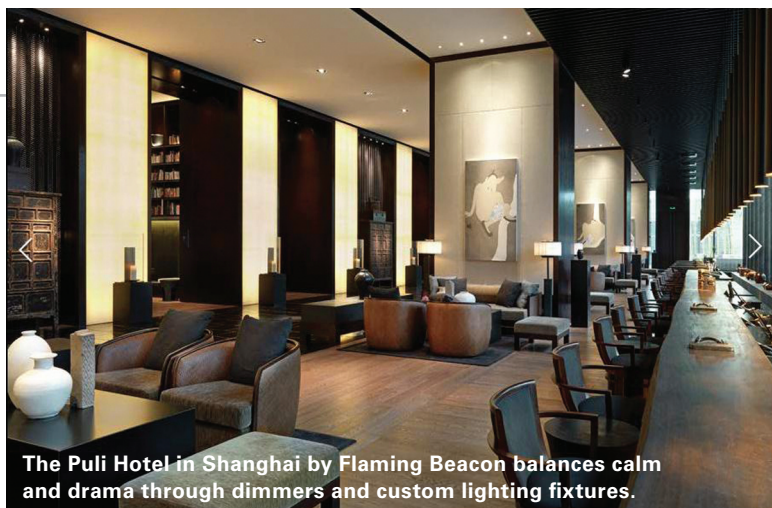
Lighting design at its most innovative was personified by the 23 winning projects, representing 12 countries, recognized by the International Assn. of Lighting Designers (IALD) International Lighting Design Awards competition.

Hospitality project honorees included a restaurant, Chipotle Mexican Grill — New Concept Prototype, recognized with an Award of Excellence; and Shanghai's Puli Hotel, which took home an Award of Merit.

The challenge for the Chipotle project by ArcLight Design Group was to create an updated atmosphere while retaining the successfully established aesthetic of standard building materials, and not exceeding budget or time constraints. The general concept was to utilize indirect T5/HO fluorescent lamps to produce the desired airy ambient light levels, and use table and bracket fixtures with fluorescent lamps and directional HID and LED lamps to illuminate the task surfaces with less wattage than if lit from the ceiling. "Alto" fluorescent lamps with minimal mercury content were required to reduce mercury pollution. The wattage density is about 1W per square foot.

Says a judge of the winner: "This is a great example of how lighting design can elevate spaces that are used by people from all walks of life, on an everyday basis."

The Puli Hotel by Flaming Beacon embodies a dual personality. Set in metropolitan Shanghai, its urban location belies the resort feel and refuge the designers aimed to capture. Guest comfort and interest is achieved through a careful balance of calm and drama and fine-tuning through dimmers. All decorative light fittings were custom-made and designed to sit harmoniously alongside the modern Chinese interiors.



The Puli Hotel in Shanghai by Flaming Beacon balances calm and drama through dimmers and custom lighting fixtures.

"The designers have harnessed the power of modulation, contrast, movement and rhythm to create a harmonious journey of light throughout the guest experience," says a judge of the project.

The winners were recognized during a presentation on May 13 at the Renaissance Las Vegas Hotel. The IALD Lighting Design Awards program, established in 1983, honors lighting projects that display high aesthetic achievement backed by technical expertise.

Diane McNabb Rodriguez, associate IALD member and Chair of the prestigious global awards program, was thrilled with this year's recipients. "The IALD received more than 200 awe-inspiring submissions in response to its call for entries," she says. "The sheer number of winners is evidence that this year's awards judges had their work cut out for them as the caliber of work submitted raised the standard for excellence in lighting design to a new level."

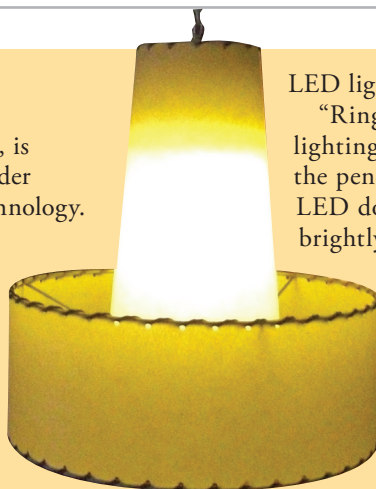
www.iald.org

LED Olé

A Mexican restaurant in Austin, TX, is merging traditional south-of-the border décor with cutting-edge lighting technology. Don Dario's Mexican Restaurant Y Cantina combines a whimsical sombrero-shaped light shade with state-of-the-art LED technology by Ringdale Inc., a developer of commercial solid-state lighting.

The restaurant is proof that old can be new — as well as energy-efficient — again.

When owner Dario Gonzalez decided to build the second installment of his popular eatery in Austin, he relied on Project Manager Bradley Samuels to find as many green alternatives as possible without breaking the budget. Samuels recognized that the challenge would be to incorporate traditional style with



LED lighting technology.

"Ringdale worked with us from the start on the lighting for the restaurant," Samuels says. Augmenting the pendant lights in the main seating area are ActiveLED downlights that dot the ceiling. The kitchen is brightly lit with ActiveLED recessed panel lights. The single-story building's exterior is accented with ActiveLED outdoor sconces, wall packs and parking lot lights.

"Once we found the perfect shade, it was a simple matter for Ringdale to fit a fixture into it," Samuels says.

The end result: A visually appealing, 7W LED light that creates a warm, festive atmosphere during the day and at night, while fulfilling the owner's desire to go green and cut costs.

▲ Say "hola" to sombrero-shaped LED pendants from Ringdale at Don Dario's in Austin.

www.ringdale.com