

FX 257

FOCUS ON BARS & RESTAURANTS CO-DESIGN PATRICIA URQUIOLA

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BLUE MOTION

*Das Gerber shopping mall,
Stuttgart, lit by Pfarré
Lighting Design, page 78*



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NOW YOU'VE GOT YOUR WINDOWS open at work, unless you are fortunate enough to be in an air-conditioned environment, have you noticed how much noisier it is?

Acoustics in the workplace is something often not considered until it starts to interfere with concentration and performance. It's an intriguing

topic and one not necessarily addressed at the design stage. A panel of designers talked over the issues surrounding acoustics in a discussion event organised by Karndean Flooring and as one of the participants noted, often there's a lot of people in offices wearing headphones to block out the noise! See our coverage of the discussion on page 48.

Elsewhere in this issue we look at the growing trend of co-operative design in projects, in which designers and architects consult widely with stakeholders and the wider local community, resulting in a collaborative relationship in which everyone benefits. And we also make a call into the world of bars and restaurants, looking at trends, the amazing Sky Garden at the top of London's so-called Walkie-Talkie skyscraper, and case studies on projects in London, Abu Dhabi and a roll-out for a UK garden centre chain, in our 20-page Focus.

And of course we open the window on the wider world of design with our regular servings of news, expert comment, projects and profile. This month we're talking to the gloriously talented Patricia Urquiola, winner of last year's Outstanding Lifetime Achievement to Design at our FX Awards, and visit Manchester to talk to Fran Toms, the force behind that city's new cultural buildings, in the latest in our Client File series.

Enjoy the restful summer and I look forward to meeting up in the heady days of September when it all kicks off again.

Theresa Dowling, Editor



On the cover: Lighting at Das Gerber shopping mall in Stuttgart, by Pfarré Lighting Design. See page 78

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This image The IALD award-winning lighting scheme at Das Gerber shopping mall, Stuttgart. See Light & Tech, page 78

LIGHT + TECH

BLURRING BOUNDARIES

WORDS BY
JILL ENTWISTLE

These winning entries into the 2015 IALD International Lighting Design Awards use understatement, two contrasting with overt lighting features, to great effect

TWO OF THE following schemes, for a German shopping mall and the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, cleverly combine strict understatement on one hand with overt lighting features on the other, blurring the distinction between art and design with customised fixtures. The third scheme, for the 9/11 Memorial Museum in New York, is entirely understated, an appropriately restrained design that rather than dictating an emotional response allows the visitor space for contemplation. The result is magical and magisterial spaces respectively.

DAS GERBER SHOPPING MALL, STUTTART, GERMANY

LIGHTING DESIGN Pfarre Lighting Design

AWARD Merit

The Gerber Mall is a 25,000 sq m centre with more than 86 shops. The interior space is light, clear and clean, a highly minimal environment for the lighting to contend with.

'The brief offered many challenges,' says Gerd Pfarre. 'How to minimise the visual weight of a 1m-high ceiling package, filled with ducts and technical features? How to create a dynamic, thrilling, spatial experience with a truly clean ceiling?'

The first answer was to illuminate the white flanks of the generous ceiling openings, lifting the spaces with uniform, glare-free light. Accommodation was resolved by integrating everything into a recessed, matte-black channel system: lights (both architectural and temporary event track lighting), HVAC outlets, sprinklers, loudspeakers, cameras and security lighting are all housed in this single system.

One of the more striking features of the scheme is the 31 LED rings, reminiscent of the ones Pfarre created for the Palace of International Forums in Tashkent, which were designed especially for the project, and showcased as a corporate design theme at all entrance areas. In the basement, the rings are integrated into the ceiling; in the other entrances they are freely suspended above. A 'hula hoop' arrangement of 10 rings is the only installation with an RGB system, intended for special events.

The glowing escalators are also key lighting objects in the space, contrasting with the dark-grey profiles of shop facades. Glare-reduced, honeycombed metal halide spots dot the walking rhythm within the public space, generating visual interest.

Above the top floor, a huge skylight allows daylight to illuminate the enormous volume. To hide the frames, the interior architects designed a system of white baffles. At night, a blue LED strip transforms the entire skylight into another lighting feature.

PROJECT INFO

Architecture
Quartier 'S' EPA
Planungsgruppe/
Bernd Albers

Interior design
Ippolito Fleitz Group

JUDGES' VERDICTS

'Sleek and futuristic, with astonishingly unbroken illuminated surfaces and a highly graphic conceptualisation,' said one. 'The lighting successfully fills the entire mall with glow and electric energy. The lighting evokes a sense of movement and flow. A rewarding implementation of high contrast to create depth and enhance form.'

Another commented: 'I loved the simple and futuristic design of this shopping mall. With every decision, the elegant lighting solutions furthered the design's intention.'

This image The IALD award-winning lighting scheme at Das Gerber shopping mall, Stuttgart

