



# mondo

THE INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE FOR DESIGNERS WITH LIGHT #99 2017

# 2017 DARCA AWARDS / ARCHITECTURAL & DARCA ROOM

## TIME TO SHINE





# CLOUD NINE

*A modest new lighting scheme from LUMINOcité has given the 9 Locks of Fonseranes, first built in the seventeenth century, a profound sense of poetry, and a warm, welcoming atmosphere, helping the historic landmark emerge from the French countryside.*

The 9 Locks of Fonseranes is the most emblematic installation on the Canal du Midi, UNESCO World Heritage Site. Eight pounds and nine doors were designed by original architect Pierre-Paul Riquet, born in Béziers in the seventeenth century, for barges to cross a 21.5-metre height difference on a 300-metre length: the technical prowess achieved in 1697 still fascinates 450,000 visitors each year. This makes it the third most visited tourist site in Languedoc-Roussillon, after the 'Pont du Gard' and the 'Cité de Carcassonne'. "The recent rehabilitation of the 9 Locks of Fonseranes opens the way to get the prestigious 'Réseau des Grands Sites de France' accreditation, which highlights the most spectacular tourist sites in France. A real chance to massively increase the

touristic development of the Béziers region for the coming years," said Frédéric Lacas, President of Beziers Council. Philippe Deliau, Landscape Architect on the project, added: "The aim of this landscape design is to create both an oneiric and instructive promenade throughout the site: the canal's bank, the esplanades surrounding the buildings, the access ramp and the threshold alongside the nine locks, the bridges and the magical views on Béziers historic city centre. "One unique ground guides the steps and one unique material is used for all the equipment, while modern construction characterises the new buildings." Fonseranes has many distinctive characteristics: back and forth shuttling, locks opening and closing, spectacular and

perilous maneuvers - movements which become, at nightfall, quiet boats rolling and water reflections, a captivating peace livened up by frogs singing. The lighting design, implemented by France-based LUMINOcité, circulates on one-kilometre, through a dozen heritage elements, including wooden piers, water coach house, locks and pounds. At night, a succession of scenes is progressively revealed to visitors as they walk alongside the locks, with Béziers' fortifications a breathtaking backdrop. In order to make Fonseranes a popular nighttime promenade, the lighting design combines a true sense of poetry with a warm atmosphere, while respecting the kind, natural darkness surrounding. The overall lighting scheme remains modest,



but the most important elements are finely highlighted, emerging from the sleeping countryside.

Enchanting atmospheres have been created for visitors, combining subtle shade effects, coloured lighting and water reflections. The project associates the warm white continuous lighting of the pedestrian walk, which strolls from east to west, with scenographic lighting displaying the colours inspired from the shades found on the original construction plans of the locks. These lighting scenes are created thanks to 30 projectors (dynamic RGBW on DMX network) fixed on five poles nine-metres high. Benefiting from a contemporaneous design that perfectly matches with the locks' mouldings, the aluminium masts are placed in line with the axis formed by the

vegetation, and seem to have been there forever.

Quite avant-gardist for the 17th century, the locks' architect Pierre-Paul Riquet developed the local economy by using only material and constructors from the local area. The recent rehabilitation perpetuates this sustainable commitment: both the lighting furniture manufacturer and the installers being nearby companies. The lighting scenes succeeding one another at nightfall vary according to the season and the number of visitors. The colours and their combinations can be modified and renewed, the idea being to make the Fonserane site live at the rhythm of visitors and events, and to offer a striking experience to the public.  
[www.luminocite.fr](http://www.luminocite.fr)

**Lighting from Technilum and Lumenpulse helps to create a sense of poetry along the locks, with a warm atmosphere that highlights the most important elements, while respecting the kind, natural darkness of the surrounding landscape.**

#### PROJECT DETAILS

**9 Locks of Fonseranes, France**  
Client: Conurbation of Béziers  
Lighting Design: LUMINOcité  
Architect: ALEP Landscape  
Lighting Suppliers: Technilum, Lumenpulse

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**SHORTLISTED**

9 Locks of Fonsérannes, Béziers  
UNESCO World Heritage  
Lighting design: LUMINOcité



© Branko Starcević

**Waterfront, Belgrad**  
Lighting design: Buro Happold Ltd



© AJIN Photography

**Liberty Park, New York**  
Lighting design: Fischer Marantz Stone



© F. Deladrière

**Promenade du Paillon, Nice**  
Lighting design: Coup d'Éclat



© J. Falsimagne

**EDF Lab, Paris-Saclay**  
Architect: E. Combarel & D. Marrec

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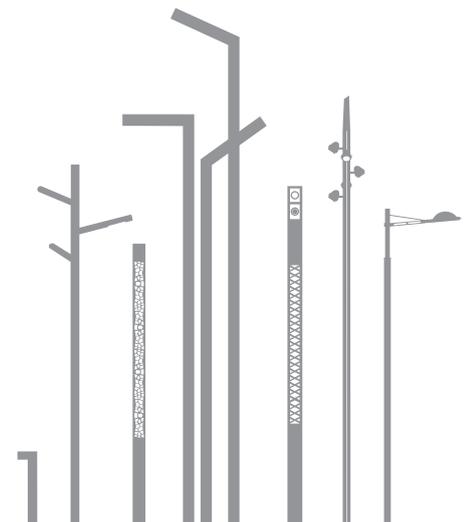
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# SPACES

## BEST LANDSCAPE LIGHTING SCHEME - HIGH BUDGET

*Urban or rural landscape projects (including masterplans, streetscapes, parks and plazas) where luminaires specified cost more than £30,000.*



SPACES



9 LOCKS OF FONSERANES, FRANCE; LUMINOCITÉ, FRANCE  
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ALEXANDERPLATZ TELEVISION TOWER PEDESTRIAN SQUARE, GERMANY; LICHT KUNST LICHT, GERMANY



BELVEDERE GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB, INDIA; LUX + DESIGN, INDIA



CHICAGO RIVERWALK, USA; SCHULER SHOOK USA  
SEE PAGE 090



DUBAI WATER CANAL, UAE; CPLD, GREECE  
SEE PAGE 114



EURASIA TUNNEL, TURKEY; SKIRA, CROATIA



GREENWICH MARKET, UK; HOARE LEA LIGHTING, UK



MACQUARIE MALL, AUSTRALIA; WEBB AUSTRALIA GROUP LIGHTING DESIGN, AUSTRALIA



NIAGARA FALLS, USA/CANADA; SALEX, CANADA  
SEE MONDO\*ARC 97



NIKIS SQUARE, GREECE; MARA SPENTZA, GREECE  
SEE PAGE 122



NIKKI BEACH RESORT & SPA, TURKEY; ZKLD STUDIO, TURKEY  
SEE PAGE 064



NOVA LUMINA, CANADA; MOMENT FACTORY, CANADA



PUERTO VALLARTA MASTER PLAN, MEXICO; EGEA - CITELUM, MEXICO



SHAKESPEARE'S NEW PLACE, UK; SPEIRS + MAJOR, UK  
SEE PAGE 118



THE HARMONY HOTEL & RESORT, CHINA; UNOLAI LIGHTING DESIGN & ASSOCIATES, CHINA  
SEE PAGE 062



TOKYO GARDEN TERRACE KIOICHO, JAPAN; LIGHTING PLANNERS ASSOCIATION, JAPAN