



Creative Control

The inaugural DALI Lighting Awards, organised by the DALI Alliance and held in association with **arc** and the IALD, has revealed its winners.

Launched in 2020, the winners of the inaugural DALI Lighting Awards were announced in an online ceremony in January.

Organised by the DALI Alliance (DiiA) and held in association with **arc magazine** and the IALD, the DALI Lighting Awards aim to celebrate the best use of DALI control solutions in international projects, as well as recognising the value of delivering quality illumination to clients and end-users.

A broad range of commercial, architectural and industrial lighting projects linked with DALI technology were nominated, with entries spanning across the globe. The competition saw winners named in four different categories across indoor and outdoor lighting applications, alongside a separate category for projects employing outstanding use of Zhaga-D4i products.

Judges for this year's DALI Lighting Awards were Scott Wade, Technical and Certification Manager for the DALI Alliance; Tad Trylski, an active member of the IALD and former chair of its industry liaison group; and **arc** editor Matt Waring.

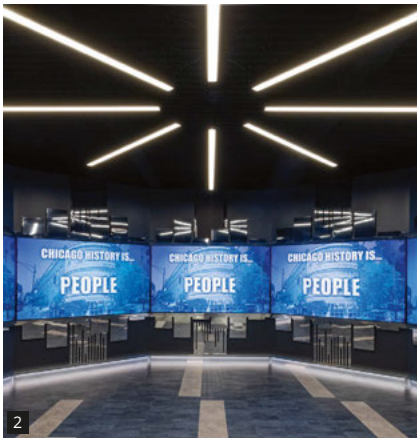
The winner of the Best Use of DALI in Outdoor Lighting category was Helvar for its work on the Column of the Immaculate Conception in Rome, Italy. The monument tells the story of the Madonna of the Immaculate Conception on her journey from Earth to Heaven – from Human to Divine, and with lighting designed by Franca Storaro, the project set out to characterise the story through lighting. The DALI system was used to produce soft, warm, 3000K light, diffused at the base in a circular pattern, rising up the monument to 4000K, with five projectors beaming bright 5700K light up the column, removing any shadows and creating a highlight in the skyline. DALI luminaires from Erco, twinned with dimmable fittings controlled by the Helvar Imagine system, enable precision dimming throughout, and the overall system is connected to an external digital clock for time-scheduled recall of specific scenes.

In the Small Indoor Project category – projects involving up to 64 luminaires – the winner was Morlights for the Crown Lunchroom Renovation at the Chicago History Museum. Morlights was tasked with redesigning the lunchroom into a space that could be used for social gatherings, plus an immersive theatre setting. In such a large room with low ceilings and a partial wall, with no focal point, this was a challenge. However, low-glare, deep-recess downlights were used to provide general lighting, while a star-shaped chandelier of linear LED fixtures creates drama.

DALI digital controls allow for the deep dimming that theatrical spaces require, and enable show lighting that is perfectly synchronised with presentations. The space uses eight DALI-controlled zones, 45 DALI-controlled light fixtures, and 48 non-DALI fixtures. Here, the judges felt that the lighting design and dimming control to achieve multiple lighting schemes was on point for a combined use space of a theatre and a public cafeteria, with DALI shown to be a control protocol to allow extra infrastructure to be integrated in a very straightforward manner.

The winner of the Medium Indoor Projects category – projects featuring between 65-500 luminaires – was Schuler Shook for its work on the Leonardian Auditorium at St. Leonard's College in Victoria, Australia. With illumination ranging from general lighting and wallwashing, to featuring accents to wall panels, the auditorium is used for different events, from theatre shows to lectures, and as such needed different light scene settings. A key requirement was high-performance dimming from full brightness to pre-show darkness without perceived steps. This was made possible through the use of eldoLED DALI control system, allowing the lighting to dim smoothly, down to 0.1%. With many fixtures installed in difficult to access locations, the asset management and predictive maintenance features were also important aspects of the DALI installation.

“This project also stood out for its lighting design,” added Trylski.



“Achieving this level of uniformity from limited mounting positions shows a level of technical skill in design and luminaire specification. Subtle touches like the low-level aisle lighting, the contrast in the panelling, the wallwashing working together with that contrast, all confirm the value of the lighting designer in a space like this, but the standout aspect here is the attention to the switch on, switch off performance – not the most glamorous part of a lighting design, but it’s so often overlooked and is very important.”

In the Large Indoor Projects category, the award was given to Laing O’Rourke for the Manchester Airport Terminal 2 Extension and New Piers, which delivers a dynamic lighting control system integrated with an existing building management system to maximise energy savings across a 24-hour operational building. Here, DALI offers the ability to standardise control aspects across all airport areas, with nearly 20,000 DALI drivers, more than 3,000 sensors and over 500 application controllers on one converged network.

Specifically, DALI is used for features including live updates of set points to increase light levels if a flight is due at a gate for arrival or departure, and reduce them when no flight is present. DALI also provides a better user experience at the airport through changing themes and colours according to specific events, providing dimming and colour control to achieve desired lighting schemes, for example when a football team is landing, or to mark key dates in the calendar.

The judges were impressed by the sheer scale of the system, and the colour-control aspects, along with other features that boost the overall user experience.

Waring added: “I love the idea of creating a more user-focused, interesting lighting experience. Airports can be particularly stressful places, even at the best of times, so the dimming and colour-control in play here really go a long way to creating

a more pleasant environment for travellers, which should certainly be commended.”

The final category – the Best Use of Zhaga-D4i – was awarded to Comlight for its work on the District Road 51 Tengs – Bjerkreim in Norway. This project is a 13km district road with 275 luminaires from Signify. The luminaires are equipped with light controllers from Comlight with integrated doppler-radar motion detectors. These pass messages to the next luminaires to light up the road ahead, providing full light for vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians.

The judges felt that this was an excellent example of Zhaga-D4i in practice, with some great benefits including fast installation of the controller, while significant energy saving is also achieved – typically 70% at night.

Alongside the five award categories, the judges reserved special praise for Belzner Holmes und Partner Light-Design for its work on the BUGA Fibre and Wood Pavilions in Heilbronn, Germany. The judges explained: “Even though this entry didn’t pick up a win in any of our designated categories, the judges felt this submission was a triumph for its scale and imaginative implementation of scene setting.”

What at first appears to be randomised pulsating light play in a wood pavilion is actually a sophisticated lighting project controlling more than 700 light modules via DALI. The light control is constantly under tension and plays the desired programmes until they are changed.

The judges very impressed with how many luminaires have been controlled to achieve the effect in a small outside space. They added: “We felt this was a standout project for its aesthetics and outright beauty, supported by remarkable photography. The technical achievement of doing all this with DALI was just a bonus.” ■

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1. The winner of the Medium Indoor Projects category, the Leonardian Auditorium at St. Leonard’s College in Victoria, Australia, featured lighting designed by Schuler Shook.
2. Morlights’ work on the Crown Lunchroom renovation at the Chicago History museum saw them win the Small Indoor Project category. (Pic: John Cahill Photography)
3. In the Best Use of Zhaga-D4i category, Comlight was successful for its work on the District Road 51 Tengs - Bjerkreim in Norway.
4. Alongside the five award categories, special recognition was given to Belzner Holmes und Partner Light-Design for the BUGA Fibre and Wood Pavilion in Heilbronn, Germany. (Pic: Conné van d’Grachte)
5. In the Large Indoor Projects category, Laing O’Rourke was successful for its impressive work on the Manchester Airport Terminal 2 Extension and New Piers.
6. The Outdoor Lighting category was won by Helvar for its work on the Column of the Immaculate Conception in Rome, Italy.