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Abstract

Light, art and city: a conversation in progress

Tutor

Chiara Aghemo

by

Matteo Sattanino

Co-tutors

Rossella Taraglio
Roberta Novascone

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The use of light in urban space is a relatively new issue, faced by designers and lighting designers, but today it's still extremely relevant and interesting. In recent years the focus on the lighting project has increased more and more, and the role of lighting in the city has become the topic of discussion at numerous conferences and debates, and even one of the main themes of the events proposed under the International Year of Light 2015. Development and technological innovation we are experiencing makes the relationship between light and the city a subject of study for numerous experiments, in which, often, inventiveness and creativity play a key role.

This assumption has meant that the research work of this thesis was born with the intent to go further to cases of traditional lighting design, investigating a very particular use of light that represents the link between research, technical experimentation and artistic expression. They have been reported as examples several cases of unconventional use of light, trying to grasp the needs and purposes to which these projects can meet, highlighting the urban planning and social aspects. Above all, this thesis has deepened the creative use of light, starting from the first experiments of light art of the twentieth century up to contemporary light installations that enliven the squares and streets of the city, giving them a completely different connotation than the one to which the citizen is usually accustomed. This kind of use of light then finds its highest expression in the "light festivals", another subject of study through which were taken into analysis and compared some of the most important international events, studying the performance, the period covered, the number and type of works exposed, the related events, etc ...

This first research has served to introduce in detail the case study of the thesis, the Turin festival "Luci d'Artista" and the aspects that distinguish it, from its birth to the present, through a descriptive and historian list of the works also designed to offset the lack of recent publications, or at least to provide the basis for further study. To explore the implications and results of the event were also interviewed some of the protagonists, including artists, lighting designers, operators and managers, who have provided their personal point of view.

In the framework outlined is presented the experience of the student initiative "PoliTo in Light", central and application part of this thesis, which has allowed me to participate directly in the design and construction of temporary light installation for the Court of Honor of the Valentino Castle, inserted in 2016 by the City of Turin in "Torino+Piemonte ContemporaryArt" in the section "Other lights in the city" in the context of the nineteenth edition of the festival "Luci d'Artista".

The work done and the direct experiences have served well to define a technically relevant information and possibilities offered by this very special use of light, outlining the different needs within the planning process that the architect is able to satisfy itself as one of the best profession suitable to play the role of lighting designers.



For further information please contact:
Matteo Sattanino, matteo.sattanino@gmail.com